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THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI, GOVERNOR

TO: The Honorable Members of Oregon's Congressional Delegation
FROM: Scott McMullen, Chair, Oregon's Ocean Policy Advisory Council
RE: Meeting on Federal Funding for Oregon Seafloor Mapping
DATE: September 14, 2006

Oregon's Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) members are united in their support for completing a map of the seafloor within Oregon's Territorial Sea as soon as possible and respectfully request your assistance in obtaining federal funding to complete this work that is crucial for many of Oregon's coastal safety and marine resource management needs.

A group of twenty respected Oregon scientists have signed the enclosed "Scientific Consensus Statement for Mapping the Oregon Territorial Seafloor," which indicates the cost of the project, over two years, to be under \$6 million and the benefits for Oregon to be "inestimable."

At a recent meeting of the OPAC, Dr. Dawn Wright, professor in the Department of Geosciences at Oregon State University, provided a presentation that indicated only five percent of the Territorial Sea, which extends three nautical miles from Oregon's coast, is currently mapped at a scale useful for resource management. Frankly, the Council was surprised that so little of the Territorial Sea was currently mapped in the detail required for management needs.

Scientists indicate that a seafloor map, with detailed bathymetry, will be valuable for improving tsunami inundation modeling and mapping. In short, it may help save lives when the inevitable "big one" strikes the Oregon coast. Additionally, the map would be valuable in nearshore fisheries management and policy decisions such as placement of wave powered generators in the territorial sea.

The OPAC will need to rely upon a detailed seafloor map of the entire Territorial Sea to complete many of the tasks before the Council including the identification of areas appropriate for marine reserves and consideration of the Governor's proposal for a National Marine Sanctuary.

We would respectfully recommend that you or your staff meet with Dr. Dawn Wright or Dr. Chris Goldfinger, Assoc. Professor of Marine Geology at OSU, to

learn more about this mapping project as soon as possible. Dr. Wright can be reached at dawn@dusk.geo.orst.edu or at 541-737-1229, and Dr. Goldfinger can be contacted at 541-737-5214 or gold@coas.oregonstate.edu. They are available to provide a presentation or meet with you or your staff.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance. Please let me know if there is specific support that the OPAC might provide to help secure funding for this proposal. You can contact me at (503) 325-2285 or smcmullen@ofcc.com

Enclosure

Cc: Oregon's Coastal Caucus, Governor Kulongoski