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Ocean Champions & Florida Politicians Team Up to Seek Remedy to Red Tide Crisis Save Our Shore Act Directs Federal Funds to Research Solutions

Capitola, CA - As Red Tide continues to plague many parts of Florida's 1200 miles of coastline, national political group Ocean Champions pushes for federal funding that will alleviate such crises.

Ocean Champions, the only bipartisan political organization that helps to elect pro-ocean Congressional candidates, has successfully launched a grassroots effort that bolsters support for the "Save our Shores Act," introduced by Florida Representatives Kathy Castor (D-11) and Connie Mack (R-14) earlier this year. The Bill aims to increase funding for peer-reviewed research into the causes and effects of Red Tides and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).

In demonstrating Ocean Champions' unique bipartisan approach to healthy oceans, the organization brings both Representatives Castor and Mack, leaders from opposite sides of the political aisle, together in the fight against Red Tide. Dr. David Wilmot PhD., President of Ocean Champions, sees bipartisanship as crucial to the sustainability of healthy ocean legislation. "The health of our oceans goes way beyond 'red or blue' states. Ocean Champions aims to support political leaders who are united under the value of healthy and vibrant oceans. Both Castor and Mack exemplify the kind of leadership needed today. They each transcend partisan agendas for the overall good of the oceans."

As a former scientist of Scripps Institution of Oceanography-turned political expert, Dr. Wilmot understands the importance of national legislation to support Red Tide research: "Harmful Algal Blooms are one of the most scientifically complex and economically significant coastal issues facing the nation today." Wilmot continues, "Initially, we must understand the basic biology of algal bloom species, and how these toxins are transferred through the environment. Only then will we be able to develop successful forecasting, early detection, and ultimately prevention."

There are several Florida-based scientific institutions participating in research on Red Tide and HABs that could potentially benefit from additional funding. These institutions include Mote Marine Lab, Florida Environmental Research Institute, University of Florida, among others.

The Save our Shores Act is currently being reviewed in the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans. A Committee Hearing on the Save Our Shores Bill is imminent.

Ocean Champions is the only nonprofit political voice for the oceans. Ocean Champions endorses pro-ocean Congressional candidates and lobbies members of Congress on behalf of ocean health. To learn more, visit www.oceanchampions.org.

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