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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Ocean Champions Gains National Attention at Successful Washington DC Event Joining Government Leaders and Ocean Protectors

Capitola, CA Last Tuesday, the political group Ocean Champions hosted a national event in Washington D.C. which created a powerful convergence of Congress, ocean enthusiasts, and ocean conservation community leaders. Members of Congress attending the event expressed gratitude for the unique bipartisan role Ocean Champions is playing on behalf of ocean conservation.

David Wilmot, PhD., President of Ocean Champions, was thrilled with the turnout. "It is very gratifying to have the opportunity to personally thank leaders publicly for their hard work in creating, supporting, and championing good ocean policy," said Wilmot. "It is further gratifying to bring these leaders together with our supporters, and colleagues in the ocean conservation community."

Representative Sam Farr (D-CA) who attended the event, acknowledged the importance of the actions of Ocean Champions' members and supporters. He stated, "Nothing is more powerful than a grassroots effort to get things accomplished in America." Ocean Champions has been working closely with Farr's office on the Oceans 21 Bill, introduced by Farr in the U.S House of Representatives earlier this year, which, if passed, will create a comprehensive national ocean policy.

"That kind of acknowledgement from a member of Congress helps our supporters hear and feel what we know to be true – the fact that their actions and participation in the political process does indeed make a difference," expressed Dr. Wilmot. Wilmot continued, "Representative Farr's leadership on ocean issues has been so consistent, and at such a high level, we are honored to work with him."

An added benefit of the evening, members of Congress expressed gratitude for Ocean Champions' bipartisan approach in tackling ocean issues. Representative Lois Capps (D-CA)

eloquently told the gathered crowd that despite the fact she sits right across the aisle from Republican Representative Jim Saxton of New Jersey (an original co-sponsor of Rep. Farr's Oceans 21 Bill), she learned more about Mr. Saxton's reasons for commitment to the oceans that night than she had ever known before.

Other Congressional attendees included Representative Kathy Castor of Florida, who has co-sponsored the Save Our Shores Act (which will fund research for Red Tides), Representative Allen Boyd (D-Fl), and Representative Nick Rahall (D-WV), Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee.

Ocean Champions is the only nonprofit political organization that endorses pro-ocean Congressional candidates and lobbies members of Congress on behalf of ocean conservation. To learn more visit www.oceanchampions.org

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