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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Ocean Champions Endorses Congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV) *Natural Resources Committee Chairman Passes CLEAR Act*

Washington, D.C. – August 5th, 2010 – Ocean Champions, which works to build political power for the oceans by helping to elect pro-ocean candidates to the U.S. Congress is proud to announce its endorsement of Congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV).

“Having the right people in leadership is critical, and few things make that point better than a comparison of the Natural Resources Committee under Chairman Rahall versus what it was under Richard Pombo,” said David Wilmot, Ph.D., Ocean Champions’ President and Co-Founder. “Whereas Mr. Pombo tried to strip the earth bare with no concern for the future, Mr. Rahall emphasizes worker and ecosystem safety while ensuring that short term decisions are made with long term sustainability in mind. His Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources ‘CLEAR’ Act is a great example.”

Chairman Rahall sponsored the CLEAR Act and led it to passage last week. The CLEAR Act improves the way we manage and protect our oceans, by setting up regional planning groups and charging them to use the best available science along with coastal and marine spatial planning to ensure the protection and maintenance of marine ecosystem health. It establishes the nation’s first ocean conservation fund, which has the potential to direct hundreds of millions annually for ocean conservation projects.

Congressman Nick Rahall has proudly and effectively served the people of West Virginia’s 3rd District for 17 terms. His understanding and dedication to improving their quality of life make him the best choice to continue representing them. His recognition that healthy oceans are important to all Americans, and his actions to protect them make him an ocean champion.

Ocean Champions is the only nonprofit political organization that endorses pro-ocean Congressional candidates and lobbies members of Congress on behalf of the oceans. To learn more about Ocean Champions or any of the candidates endorsed by Ocean Champions, visit www.oceanchampions.org.