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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

VICE CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MILITARY PERSONNEL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3003

March 22, 2015

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FEDERAL LANDS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WATER, POWER AND OCEANS

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
House Committee on Appropriations
H-309 Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Fattah:

We respectfully request the subcommittee prohibit any funds from being used to designate any more national marine monuments. The beautiful shores of this country are the lifeblood of our communities and many of our constituents rely on the ocean to make a living. Thousands of residents from coastal districts all across the country flock to the shore during the summer months to take advantage of all of the attractions and recreational activities. On top of a booming tourism industry, many residents fish commercially, through a charter business or recreationally.

We want to ensure those resources are protected for generations to come. The diversity of interests encompassed at the shore necessitates a balanced democratic and scientific approach to our conservation and management that involves all of the relevant stakeholders. We must protect what is necessary, while also ensuring viable commerce and recreation for generations to come.

To achieve management balance and buy-in from affected stakeholders and to adequately protect those areas that are most unique, we must not ignore the technical expertise of the fishing community and local & state wildlife officials and their willingness to apply sound conservation ethics to the resources they are privileged to access and proud to bring to the consumer.

We are concerned that the Antiquities Act model, despite being on the books for nearly 110 years, is not be the most democratic and open process by which large areas of the country are off limits to our citizens and that scientific integrity may be at risk if a hastily drawn boundary is created for political legacy reasons with no data inputs or buy-in from the affected communities.

Sincerely,



Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress

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