February 10, 2009

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
Chairman - Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchinson
Ranking Member – Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Hutchinson:

On behalf of the 93 members of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, I am writing to express our strong support for John Holdren, PhD to lead the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Jane Lubchenco, PhD to head the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Both nominees are outstanding scientists and widely considered leaders in their fields. In fact, both are former Presidents of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, members of the National Academies of Science, and have received “genius” grants from the McArthur Foundation.

Given that climate change is the greatest scientific threat facing the planet, it is important to note that both nominees have been engaged in the climate change debate and are well versed in both the science and policy implications facing our nation. The oceans play a vital role in driving the climate system through the global transfer of heat, carbon and water, but they are also being impacted through the alteration of ocean temperature, currents, chemistry and sea-level. These changes have tremendous implications for U.S. commerce, public health, transportation and infrastructure.

Climate change is a multi-agency issue that requires strong leadership at the White House as well as at the individual agencies such as NOAA, which is central to monitoring and forecasting our weather and climate systems. I believe that both Dr. Holdren and Dr. Lubchenco have the talent, expertise and commitment necessary to provide our nation with quality information so we can make the tough decisions necessary to adapt to a rapidly changing environment.

Therefore, we endorse both Dr. Holdren and Dr. Lubchenco and urge their timely confirmation.

Sincerely,

Robert Gagosian
President and CEO