Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education

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November 14, 2007

The Honorable Sam Farr
U.S. House of Representatives
1221 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Farr:

On behalf of the 95 member institutions of the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE), I am writing in support of H.R. 3639-The Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Recovery Act. CORE believes that this bill is a significant step toward supporting the much needed research identified in the Southern Sea Otter Recovery Plan and toward investigating the health-related threats to southern sea otters.

Specifically, CORE supports the key provisions that: (1) directs the Secretary of Interior to undertake a recovery program for southern sea otters; (2) calls for the development of a Southern Sea Otter Health Assessment Plan; (3) creates a competitive grant program to support research to recover sea otter populations; (4) establishes the Southern Sea Otter Recovery Implementation Team; (5) institutes the Southern Sea Otter Recovery Scientific Advisory Committee; and (6) provides an authorization of five million dollars, two million of which are research grants, for the implementation of this program.

We believe that a comprehensive health assessment as envisioned by your bill is necessary to evaluate the health of southern sea otters in the wild and to devise mitigation measures to promote their recovery. In particular, we strongly support the establishment of a competitive grant program to financially support the research necessary to understand more fully the threats facing southern sea otters and the measures needed to secure their recovery.

We congratulate you on your visionary bill and look forward to working with you to secure its passage.

Sincerely,

Dick West
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)
President

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