



June 10, 2004

The Honorable Richard Cheney
President of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-0010

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed are a draft bill entitled the "National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Organic Act of 2004" and a section-by-section analysis.

The Administration believes that the timely passage of an organic act that codifies the establishment and purposes of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is an important step forward in enhancing NOAA's ability to carry out the research and management objectives entrusted to it. The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy recently stated support for a NOAA organic act in its preliminary report. Admiral James Watkins, Chairman of the Commission, has testified before committees of both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives about the importance of passage of a NOAA organic act.

The major purposes of this draft bill are to codify the current activities conducted by NOAA and provide a framework for the future. The work that NOAA conducts for the Nation is critically important. The science and management conducted by NOAA contributes to a foundation for a healthy economy touching approximately one-third of the Gross Domestic Product every day. This same work strives to ensure sound stewardship of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

Our proposed bill would enhance NOAA's ability to assess and predict changes in ocean, coastal, Great Lakes and atmospheric ecosystems; manage, protect and restore the Nation's ocean, coastal and Great Lakes areas; provide reliable scientific information that can be used as a basis for sound management decisions; protect lives and property and expand economic opportunities; and pursue its purposes in partnership with public and private entities.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this draft bill and that its enactment would be in accord with the program of the President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. L. Evans", written in a cursive style.

Donald L. Evans

Enclosures

Identical Letters Sent To:

The Honorable Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6501

The Honorable Bill Frist
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom DeLay
House Majority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6502

The Honorable Thomas A. Daschle
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Pombo
Chairman, Committee on Resources
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6201

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II
Ranking Member
Committee on Resources
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6201

The Honorable Sherwood L. Boehlert
Chairman, Committee on Science
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6301

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Ranking Member
Committee on Science
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6301

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6125

The Honorable Ernest F. Hollings
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6125