

## Press Release

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### **Ocean Conservancy Hails House Passage of Climate Change Bill and the Beginnings of a Sea Change for the Oceans**

*Calls on Senate to continue push for faster, cheaper, safer energy solutions for Americans and our ocean*

**Washington, DC** – Ocean Conservancy applauds House passage of the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES) aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, spurring serious investment in renewable forms of energy, and curbing the impacts of global climate change throughout the country. The bill includes many important items for ocean use, protection, and conservation. ACES will now go to the Senate, and President Obama has already promised to sign the legislation.

“The ocean is on the frontline of climate change; coral bleaching, melting sea ice, and acidification are fundamentally degrading the ocean's ability to sustain us all,” explained Vikki Spruill, Ocean Conservancy’s president and CEO. “We support clean energy development in our ocean that is correctly sited through a comprehensive marine spatial planning process that keeps the health and vitality of the ocean ecosystem at the forefront of the decision making process. To this end, we support Senate inclusion of strong marine spatial planning language as well as an ocean investment fund to help coastal communities deal with and mitigate the ongoing impacts of climate change.”

ACES will set new standards for renewable energy. Renewable energy is defined to include hydrokinetic, wave, offshore wind, and other various inexhaustible ocean energy sources. Taken in conjunction with the Obama administration’s June 12<sup>th</sup> formation of a task force to review recommendations for ocean protection and national policy, the ocean and its potential for clean energy production has once again been put on the front burner of national policy.

“The Obama Administration and leaders on Capitol Hill are setting a new science-based energy agenda for us and our ocean,” concluded Spruill.

*Ocean Conservancy is the world's foremost advocate for the oceans. Through science-based advocacy, research, and public education, we inform, inspire and empower people to speak and act for the oceans. Ocean Conservancy is headquartered in Washington, DC, and has offices in Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific, with support from more than half a million members and volunteers. To learn more about Ocean Conservancy visit [www.oceanconservancy.org](http://www.oceanconservancy.org).*

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