



June 14, 2021

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
 Chair
 Committee on Natural Resources
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
 Chair
 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
 Ranking Member
 Committee on Natural Resources
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
 Ranking Member
 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Grijalva, Chair DeFazio, Ranking Member Westerman and Ranking Member Graves,

As the nation’s leading aquariums committed to ocean and freshwater conservation, we thank you for your climate leadership and express our support for strong ocean-climate action included in the Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2021 (H.R. 3764).

We recognize that climate change is the greatest threat to the future of our planet, of people, and of our ocean and freshwater systems. For the well-being of people and all life on Earth, we must take immediate and significant action to address the climate crisis. Climate action can produce local

economic benefits, generate new jobs, restore public lands and waters, and engage current and future generations to help rebuild our infrastructure and create a clean-energy future. We must also ensure that communities disproportionately bearing the brunt of climate impacts are engaged in designing equitable strategies for a path forward and derive environmental and economic benefits from their engagement.

To fight climate change, we need a healthy ocean. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, oceans absorb approximately 25 percent of the carbon dioxide generated by human activities, and more than 90 percent of the excess heat. But these services have come at a tremendous cost. By altering the chemistry and temperature of the ocean, we have put marine ecosystems and wildlife at increasing risk. The life-giving benefits we derive from ocean and freshwater systems — including food and water, transportation, defense, tourism, and cultural values — underpin our global prosperity and community identities.

Our ocean, lakes, and rivers are also sources of climate solutions. Together, we can build resilience to the impacts of climate change by restoring and conserving natural habitats, curbing pollution, and managing fisheries and other natural resources in sustainable ways. We also can protect and restore our tidal marshes, seagrasses, wetlands, and mangroves that sequester atmospheric carbon, and develop new offshore sources of renewable energy in an environmentally responsible way.

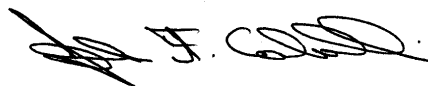
Our aquariums, which make up the Aquarium Conservation Partnership, play unique and powerful roles in promoting climate solutions. We are trusted science-based communicators, conservation stewards, and local business leaders. We are committed to working with our communities, government leaders, business partners, and public audiences to meet these challenges and accelerate the pace of progress for our planet.

Our aquariums appreciate your leadership on ocean-climate action and we stand ready to work with you to address the causes of climate change and find solutions to the impacts it is having on ocean and freshwater life and ecosystems.

Sincerely,



Ron Forman
President and CEO
Audubon Nature Institute of New Orleans



John F. Calvelli
Executive Vice President, Public Affairs, Wildlife
Conservation Society, on behalf of the New York
Aquarium



Scott D. Sampson, Ph. D.
Executive Director
William R. and Gretchen B. Kimball Chair
California Academy of Sciences



Vikki Spruill
President & CEO
New England Aquarium



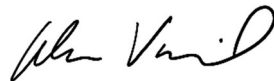
Jerry Borin
Interim President & CEO
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium



Dennis Pate
CEO
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo &
Aquarium



Roger Germann
President/CEO
The Florida Aquarium



Alan Varsik
Director
Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium



Dr. Alistair D.M. Dove
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Georgia Aquarium



Robert Davidson
CEO
Seattle Aquarium



Jason Patlis
President & CEO
The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk



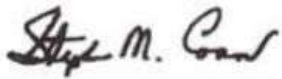
Bridget C. Coughlin, PhD
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