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November 20, 2008

President-Elect Barack Obama
c/o Presidential Transition Team
Washington, D.C. 20270

Dear President-Elect Obama:

We write to bring to your attention an exciting initiative that can help address one of the key challenges that will confront the next Administration: growing the economy while securing a clean energy future for the United States. The signatories to this letter have united behind a set of principles to guide the development of ocean renewable energy – energy from waves, tides, and ocean currents. The oceans are a huge potential source of clean energy, with conservative estimates indicating that they could supply at least 10% of current U.S. demand. But that potential has so far gone unrealized, in large part because of insufficient leadership on the part of the federal government.

The attached statement is extraordinary because it comes from a wide array of stakeholders, including environmentalists, recreationists, academics, energy developers, investors, and utilities. Equally extraordinary is the opportunity they present: ocean renewable energy is an industry very much in its infancy, and these principles lay out a roadmap for environmentally responsible development that can avoid the controversies that have engulfed many other forms of energy, both renewable and non-renewable. Because this industry is new, we have an opportunity to do it right from the beginning, and this diverse group had demonstrated that people of good faith can work together to help create a sustainable energy future for America and the world.

We know that much remains to be learned about the viability of the various ocean energy technologies -- technically, economically, and in terms of public acceptance. In the attached document, therefore, we have outlined a set of principles designed to help gather that knowledge. Developed and supported by all the members of our group, they represent a consensus-based framework for improving the nation's understanding of the role ocean technologies might play in America's energy future.

Our common conviction is that ocean power technologies represent a potentially valuable addition to the nation's clean energy portfolio. We believe, however, that to fully understand and explore that potential, a number of bureaucratic and regulatory bottlenecks must be removed.

We also believe that expanded federal assistance should be made available to help finance state-of-the-art ocean energy demonstration projects. As the principles make clear, growing an ocean renewable energy industry in an environmentally responsible way will require action from the federal government – the type of action that we feel confident that your Administration is committed to.

As your Administration embarks on an ambitious agenda to create green jobs, we encourage you to also look to the oceans, which could be a significant source of “blue-green” energy. If such an industry moves forward, we believe the United States should lead its development, and your Administration has the power to make that happen. We look forward to working with you to solve this set of challenges, and to laying the groundwork for energy independence.

Sincerely yours,



Diane Regas
Managing Director, Oceans Program
Environmental Defense Fund
1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20009



Tom Jensen Partner
Team Leader, Renewable Energy and Natural
Resources Practice
Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal LLP
1301 K Street, N.W.
Suite 600, East Tower
Washington, DC 20005-3364



Richard Roos-Collins
Director, Legal Services
Natural Heritage Institute
100 Pine St., Suite 1550
San Francisco, CA 94111



Julie Keil
Director of Hydro Licensing & Water Rights
Portland General Electric
121 SW Salmon Street
Portland, OR 97204



Ron Benfield
President of the Board
Central Lincoln People's Utility District
2129 North Coast Highway ·
Newport, OR 97365-0090



Armando Oliveria
President & CEO
Florida Power & Light
700 Universe Blvd.
Juno Beach, FL 33408



Jason Hines
Vice President, Business Development
Free Flow Power
33 Commercial Street
Gloucester, MA 01930



Richard Redoglia
Executive Director
Global Energy Horizons, Inc.
P.O. Box 9760
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067



John Seebach
Director
Hydropower Reform Coalition
1101 14th St NW, Suite 1400
Washington, DC 20005



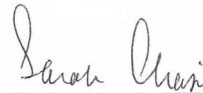
Mark Thomas
President & CEO
Independent Natural Resources, Inc.
7466 Washington Avenue South
Eden Prairie, MN 55344



Linda Church Ciocci
Executive Director
National Hydropower Association
1 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Ste. 850,
Washington, DC 20001



Robert Paasch
Interim Director
National Marine Renewable Energy Center,
Boeing Professor of Mechanical Design
College of Engineering
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331



Sarah Chasis
Senior Attorney & Director, Ocean Initiative
Natural Resources Defense Council
40 West 20th Street
New York, NY 10011

/s/

John Miller
Director
New England Marine Renewable Energy
Center (MREC)
151 Martine Street
Fall River, MA 02723



David Wilmot
President
Ocean Champions
202 San Jose Ave.
Capitola, CA 95010



Kevin Banister
President
Oregon Wave Energy Trust
PO Box 8626
Portland, OR 97207-8626



Chris Sauer, CEO
Ocean Renewable Power Company, LLC
2 Portland Fish Pier, Suite 307
Portland, ME 04101



Steven L. Kline
Vice-President, Corporate Environmental &
Federal Affairs
Pacific Gas & Electric
One Market, Spear Tower, Suite 2400
San Francisco, CA 94105-1126



Mike Hoover
Secretary, Treasurer & General Counsel
Oceana Energy Company
1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 772-0099



Steve Kopf
Partner
Pacific Energy Ventures LLC
2020 SW Main St., Ste. 703
Portland, OR 97205



Dr. George Boehlert
Professor and Director, Hatfield Marine
Science Center
Oregon State University
2030 SE Marine Science Dr.
Newport, OR 97365

/s/

Michael J. Proffitt
Chief Executive Officer
Renewable Energy Holdings PLC
1880 Century Park East
Los Angeles, CA 90067



Jim Moriarty
Chief Executive Officer
Surfrider Foundation
P.O. Box 6010
San Clemente, CA 92674-6010

/s/

Derek Robertson
WaveBob LLC
420 Chinguapin Round Rd, Suite I
Annapolis, MD 21401

Cc: Carol Browner, Chair, Energy & Environment Policy Working Group
Energy & Natural Resources Team Leads, Presidential Transition:

David J. Hayes
Elgie Holstein
Elizabeth Montoya
Sue Tierney
Cecilia V. Estolano
Lisa Jackson
Robert Sussman
Rose McKinney-James
Keith Harper
John Leshy

Commerce Team Leads, Presidential Transition:

Don Byer
Ralph Everett