



# OCEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY COALITION

The National Trade Association for Hydrokinetic and Marine Renewables

March 5, 2007

Chairman Dorgan  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
Senate Committee on Appropriations

Senator Domenici, Ranking Member,  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
Senate Committee on Appropriations

RE: FY 2008 Department of Energy Appropriations Program Request: Ocean/Marine  
Renewable Energy

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member,

I'm contacting you on behalf the Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition (OREC) to request your support for \$50 million in FY08 Energy and Water Appropriations funding for the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account. This account was established in the 2005 Energy Policy Act and it provides for basic and applied technology research and development for ocean/marine renewable technologies, including test bed and pilot projects. The funds are necessary to support the development of ocean energy technologies that are on the verge of commercial viability.

In addition to the funding to stimulate needed R&D, OREC also asks that Ocean/Marine Renewable Energy R&D funding, which encompasses emerging technologies from non-impounded water sources, be in a separate funding line than traditional impounded water energy for Hydropower R&D.

As you may know, the Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition is a 501 (c) 6 trade association representing the hydrokinetic and marine renewable energy industry. Since being founded in 2005, our membership has grown to over 35 members and includes ocean renewable development companies, law firms, consultants, investment companies, investor owned and public utilities.

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Our members understand that diversity of energy resources is the foundation of a robust and reliable electrical system. North America has significant wave, tidal, and current or in-stream energy resources. Recent studies—and the burgeoning of a robust international ocean renewable industry—have proved that there is a case for investing in the research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) of technology to convert the kinetic energy of waves, currents, and tidal streams into electricity.

Developing these emerging renewable energy resources requires federal RD&D funding support. Like the wind energy industry, which has enjoyed DOE funding support for over two decades, this nascent industry should receive similar federal support to develop these promising technologies. Our emphasis on developing diverse energy supplies—including those from ocean renewable technologies—supports the worthy goals of strengthening our energy security, protecting our environmental resources, and improving our quality of life.

**Suggested Report Language in the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Account:**

*Ocean Energy.*--The Committee strongly endorses the President's commitment to decreasing our reliance on foreign energy resources. Consistent with the goals of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Committee recognizes an increased investment in demonstrating first-of-its-kind technology to develop marine renewable resources, including (tidal, wave, current, and thermal) to accelerate commercialization. The Committee recommends an additional \$50,000,000 as authorized in the 2005 EPACT for basic and applied technology research and development for ocean renewable energy and test bed and pilot projects. The Department shall use a combination of competitive grants and loan guarantees as provided in section 17 of EPACT to support the deployment consistent with the goals of section 931(2a) of EPACT.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this appropriations request and for your support of the specific designation of marine renewables funding under this program.

Sincerely,



Sean O'Neill  
President