



# OCEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY COALITION

The National Trade Association for Hydrokinetic and Marine Renewables

January 14, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
528 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Reid, Chairman Obey, and Chairman Inouye:

I am writing in behalf of the Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition (OREC) to request that you add at least \$100 million specifically for the development of ocean and marine renewable energy technologies to the stimulus package that is currently the subject of negotiations between the President-Elect and the new Congress. The Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition is the only trade association in Washington founded exclusively to promote the ocean and marine renewable energy industry and raise awareness of the vast potential of these technologies to help secure an affordable, reliable, and environmentally friendly energy future.

The United States has significant ocean, marine and tidal energy resources. We believe that development of the technologies to capture these resources can play a significant role in our nation's economic recovery and expand our renewable energy portfolio. Unfortunately, the United States is falling behind in the race to capture the rich energy potential of our oceans. Many countries, particularly in Europe, have already deployed viable, operating, power generating projects using the emission-free power of ocean waves, currents, and tidal forces. The U.S. is only just now beginning to acknowledge the importance of these technologies.

12909 Scarlet Oak Drive Darnestown, Maryland 20878  
(301) 869-3790  
[www.oceanrenewable.com](http://www.oceanrenewable.com)

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We believe that in order to capture the energy, economic, and environmental benefits of utilizing our vast marine-based renewable resources, it will require a mix of new incentives, updated regulatory regimes, and general outreach and education. However, the most important action that can be taken by the federal government in the short term is to provide significant resources for research, development, and demonstration of various ocean and marine renewable energy technology platforms. Increased federal support will create thousands of high paying “green” jobs, hasten deployment of these technologies, and give confidence to private investors and help attract private capital.

We greatly appreciate your support for ocean and marine renewable energy to date. We also understand that the funds you have provided are but a down payment on what will be necessary to support the development of ocean energy technologies that are now on the verge of commercial viability. Just as the wind energy industry has enjoyed funding support from the Department of Energy for over two decades, the nascent water energy industry should receive similar federal support to develop promising technologies. Our emphasis on developing diverse energy supplies — including those from ocean renewable technologies — supports strengthening our energy security, protecting our environmental resources, and improving our quality of life.

With the right support, the United States ocean energy industry can be competitive internationally. With the right encouragement, ocean renewable energy technologies can help us reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and provide clean energy alternatives to conventional power generating systems. And with the right public awareness, our coastline communities can use ocean and marine renewables as a spring board for sustainable economic development, including the creation of thousands of new high-paying “green” jobs.

I appreciate in advance your favorable consideration of this request and wish you a healthy and successful New Year.

Sincerely,



Sean O’Neill  
President