

# Bonamici Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Address Health of Oceans and Estuaries

**Legislation would help coastal communities cope with ocean and coastal acidification**

Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Congressman Don Young (R-AK), Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (D-ME), and Congressman Bill Posey (R-FL) have introduced the bipartisan Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act.

The COAST Research Act will strengthen federal investments in research and monitoring of changing ocean conditions. This research will help coastal communities better understand and cope with the effects of environmental stressors on our oceans and estuaries.

About one third of the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is absorbed into the ocean, causing water chemistry to change. Changing ocean conditions

affect the more than 3 million blue economy jobs in the United States that rely on the ocean. These jobs contribute at least \$352 billion to the economy every year.

“Our oceans and estuaries face immediate threats from increasing carbon emissions,” said Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici. “As oceans and estuaries absorb carbon dioxide produced by human activity, the waters become more acidic, destabilizing fisheries, and threatening the future of coastal communities and ecosystems. The COAST Research Act will help strengthen research to better understand coastal and ocean acidification and give communities the tools they need to adapt and mitigate.”

“Healthy oceans and waterways are essential to maintaining strong coastal communities and providing for a robust marine economy,” said Congressman Don Young. “Ocean acidification is an ongoing threat that must be tackled

head-on if we are to ensure a bright economic future for Alaskans whose jobs depend on healthy oceans. Our legislation makes critical investments to assist scientists in their understanding of ocean acidification and equips our coastal communities with the tools necessary to mitigate its devastating effects. I am grateful to Congresswoman Bonamici for her leadership on this issue, and I look forward to working with the rest of the bipartisan Oceans Caucus on other matters affecting our oceans.”

The COAST Research Act reauthorizes the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) through 2023. The authorization for this important funding lapsed in 2012. The legislation would:

- Strengthen investment in research and monitoring of acidification on oceans and estuaries;
- Increase our understanding of the economic effects of ocean acidification and coastal acidification in estuaries;
- Engage stakeholders, including the commercial fishing industry, researchers, and community leaders through an Advisory Board;
- Provide for the long-term stewardship and standardization of data on ocean acidification from different sources, in-

cluding the National Centers for Environmental Information and the Integrated Ocean Observing System;

- Recognize the effects of ocean acidification on estuaries as well as oceans.

The bill has been endorsed by the Natural Resources Defense Council, IOOS Association, Consortium for Ocean Leadership, and the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems. In addition, Bonamici crafted the legislation with input from Ocean Conservancy, Restore America's Estuaries, researchers at Oregon State University, Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia, and the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership.

Bonamici and Young co-chair the House Oceans Caucus, a bipartisan group of House members committed to taking action to protect the health and future of our oceans. This Congress, the Caucus is focused on environmental stressors (including ocean acidification, harmful algal blooms, and hypoxia); marine debris; ocean data and monitoring; coastal resiliency; and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

Bonamici and Posey serve as two of the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Estuary Caucus. The Caucus works to restore our nation's estuaries and protect the species that reside in them.

Vernonia's Voice is published twice each month on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday. Look for our next issue on March 7.

**Vernonia's Got Talent!**

**2019**

Featuring local singer  
• Hank Sokler •

**Celebrity Judges:**  
Kimberly Maus  
- from Channel 12 News  
Mike Pihl  
- from Axe Men

**WHEN:** Friday, March 22 6:00-10:00 pm  
**WHERE:** Vernonia Schools  
**COST:** \$6 — includes pizza and soda!  
Dessert and Pictures are also available for purchase!

Don't worry.  
We'll go to Meyer's Auto Body.  
I hear they're out of this world.

**Meyer's Auto Body** 493 Bridge Street  
VERNONIA • 503-429-0248

**INVEST & SAVE**

**2.019% APY\*** 9-month Certificate Account  
**2.29% APY\*** 13-month Certificate Account

IRAs included. Invest in yourself and relax as you save.

**Wauna Credit Union**

24/7 Banking | waunafcu.org | 800-773-3236  
Federally insured by the NCUA

\*APY=Annual Percentage Yield. The special 9-month and 13-month Certificate Accounts minimum deposit requirement is \$10,000 New Money only to open the account; New Money may not originate from another Wauna Credit Union deposit account. Deposits exceeding the \$10,000 New Money minimum deposit are not restricted. The special 9-month Certificate Account APY is 2.019% and the Dividend Rate is 2.00%. The special 13-month Certificate Account APY is 2.29% and the Dividend Rate is 2.267%. Some fees could reduce earnings. The special 9-Month and 13-Month Certificate Accounts are also available as an IRA. Early withdrawal penalty: We may impose a penalty if you withdraw any of the principle before the maturity date, or the renewal date if it is a renewal account. This special offer is available through February 28, 2019, and may be terminated without notification. Membership with Wauna Credit Union required to be eligible for this special offer. Please contact Wauna Credit Union for membership eligibility details.