

Scott McMullen
2021 Marine Drive, #102
Astoria, OR 97103

November 23, 2005

Governor Ted Kulongoski
State Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Ocean Policy Advisory Council

Dear Governor Kulongoski:

At both the June 30 and October 28, 2005 meetings of the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC), there was a discussion regarding the unfilled seat for south coast counties. Over time, it has become apparent that this matter has reached an impasse. Unfortunately, this not only impacts the south coast counties but also impacts the integrity of decisions made by OPAC, especially those of a substantive nature. And given the scope of issues, it is vital for OPAC to have full membership so that all coastal residents are represented on the body at the local government level, as contemplated by the Oregon Ocean Resources Management Act and its latest amendments (2003 House Bill 3534).

Motivated by a concern for the good of OPAC, it was the consensus of the body's voting members (by a 10 to 3 vote) to send you a letter requesting reconsideration of the decision not to appoint that seat to Coos County Commissioner John Griffith, who has the support of south coast county commissioners. OPAC also voted to send a contingent to meet with you to discuss the appointment of a South Coast County representative to OPAC. Since it is vital for this matter to be resolved soon, OPAC would like to have this meeting before it next convenes on December 9, 2005 in Charleston. Please let me know when it would be convenient for our delegation to meet with you. It should be noted that all OPAC voting members were in favor of such a meeting and resolving this matter soon.

On a final note, OPAC looks forward to working with you on issues of importance to coastal residents and all Oregonians. Along with other OPAC members, thank you for considering this request and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Scott McMullen, Chair, for the
Ocean Policy Advisory Council

Cc: Coos County Commissioners
Curry County Commissioners
Douglas County Commissioners
Lane County Commissioners

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Astoria, OR 97103
503 325-2285

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(inside address)

Dear Commissioners (same letter to all South Coast commissions):

Oregon's new Ocean Policy Advisory Council met for the second time on October 28, 2005. We have made good progress thus far, mostly focusing on how we plan to work together, how we will involve communities and the public in our efforts, and how we will access and use the best scientific information available to buttress our recommendations.

We are anxious to get moving on our substantive agenda, including the marine reserves planning process. However, based on discussion at both our June 30th and October 28th meetings, the Council believes that we can not move ahead with credibility and authority until the vacant South Coast county commissioner slot on OPAC is filled. I'm sure you would agree with that sentiment. We need you represented on OPAC!

We understand that you and other South Coast county commissions have stood by your nomination of Mr. Griffith as your representative to OPAC. We also understand that the Governor is firm in his decision not to appoint him. Given the apparent impasse, OPAC has asked for a meeting with the Governor to (1) reconsider appointing Mr. Griffith as South Coast counties representative, including his conditions for doing so, and (2) that a small delegation from OPAC have the opportunity to meet with him personally to discuss this and other alternatives.

An impasse, of course, is a two-way street. We would like to know from your Commission and the other South coast commissions if you see ways through this impasse that would be acceptable to both you and the Governor.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Again, OPAC believes we must resolve the South Coast county appointment as soon as possible. We appreciate your help and creativity in coming up an acceptable conclusion and look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to contact me personally to discuss options.

Best regards,

Scott McMullen, Chair, for the
Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council