



Save Our Seas 2.0

House Resolution 3969



Every minute, the equivalent of a garbage truck full of plastic is dumped into our ocean. According to the United Nations, that is more than eight million metric tons a year.



Marine debris is a critical issue for the communities and wildlife that depend on a healthy ocean.



Our Hope Is

- ▶ That with our efforts we can pass the Save Our Seas 2.0 during this legislative session



Our Goal- Increase Co-Sponsorship of HR 3969

- ▶ To obtain at least 25 more Congressional Representatives to co-sponsor this bill
- ▶ Currently there are 43 co-sponsors
- ▶ This will increase the likelihood of hearings being held during this pandemic and the bill moving for a vote before the close of this session of Congress
- ▶ This bill has already passed unanimously through the Senate

“Our ocean is an immense natural resource, but the marine life and habitats it sustains are threatened by the pervasive and destructive plastics and debris that litter its waters and shores,” said Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-Oregon).



Congresswoman Bonamici shared,
“Marine debris is entirely preventable.”



Congressman Don Young, (R-Alaska) shared, “Alaska is home to more coastline than any other state in the Union, and healthy oceans are essential to Alaska’s economy and way of life.”



Congressional Representatives Bonomici and Young, cochairs of the Oceans Caucus, introduced legislation to strengthen efforts to remove and prevent marine debris. H.R. 3969



Save Our Seas 2.0

- ▶ Builds on Save Our Seas Act signed into law by President Trump in 2018
- ▶ Save Our Seas 2.0 (SOS 2.0) passed the Senate unanimously
- ▶ SOS 2.0 is more comprehensive and ambitious with greater emphasis on reducing plastics waste



What does SOS 2 Do?



- ▶ Strengthen the United States' domestic marine debris response capability with a Marine Debris Foundation, a genius prize for innovation, and new research to tackle the issue.
- ▶ Enhance global engagement to combat marine debris, including formalizing U.S. policy on international cooperation, enhancing federal agency outreach to other countries, and exploring the potential for a new international agreement on the challenge.
- ▶ Improve domestic infrastructure to prevent marine debris through new grants for and studies of waste management and mitigation.

Here are a few reasons that SOS 2.0 represents a win for our ocean:

- ▶ It proposes measures to bolster international engagement and cooperation to address marine debris, and directs the executive branch to prioritize ocean plastic pollution and take on a leadership role in international forums;
- ▶ It includes a comprehensive assessment of plastic waste in the United States, including opportunities to reduce the creation of plastic waste and an analysis of recycled content standards;
- ▶ The bill takes important steps to address critical recycling infrastructure needs by requiring an EPA strategy for improving domestic waste management and directing funding to waste management improvements through new grant programs; and
- ▶ The bill will help address several key knowledge gaps—ranging from plastic pollution data in the United States, to the effects of microplastics on food and drinking water, to the impacts of lost and derelict fishing gear. This in turn will help inform what policy interventions are needed beyond SOS 2.0.



How Do We Make a Difference?

- ▶ One person contacting their Representative can be enough in some situations to encourage a member of the US Congress to sponsor a bill
- ▶ Co-sponsoring this bill is an easy ask
 - ▶ It had bi-partisan support in the Senate
 - ▶ It has bi-partisan support in the House
 - ▶ It builds on Save Our Seas 1 which is viewed as successful
 - ▶ It has minimal financial impacts



How to contact your Representative

- ▶ **Phone call**- if you can get a live person this may be most effective
- ▶ **Mail**- this may not get a timely response but co-sponsorship can occur later in the bill's life
- ▶ **Email**- may be the most effective way to get quick action



Who is my Congressional Representative

- ▶ You can find this out by entering your zipcode
- ▶ <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>



Go to your Congressional Representative's website

- ▶ Phone number
- ▶ Email
- ▶ Write letter
- ▶ <https://marshall.house.gov/about/committees-and-caucuses>



Check what committees your Representative is on

- ▶ Transportation and Infrastructure
 - ▶ Coastguard and Maritime Transportation
- ▶ Natural Resources
 - ▶ Water, Oceans, Wildlife
- ▶ Ways and Means
- ▶ Foreign Affairs
- ▶ Energy and Commerce
 - ▶ Environment and Climate Change
- ▶ Science, Space, and Technology
- ▶ Agriculture
 - ▶ Conservation and Forestry



In Your Message, Highlight the Committee s/he is on

- ▶ This is why I am asking you to co-sponsor HR3969, the Save our Seas Act. The save Our Seas Act is an important step forward for America in the global fight to tackle the marine debris crisis. **As a member of the Committee on Natural Resources, the bill will come before you for review. I hope that you can signal to your colleagues your support for this important measure by being a co-sponsor.**

Once the Bill is reported out of Committee

- ▶ There will be a vote on the House Floor
- ▶ We will be contacting everyone to email or phone their Representative to pass this bill
- ▶ If final bill differs from the Senate, there will be a committee to work out the differences
- ▶ Then we need to get President Trump to sign



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