

# Save Our Seas 2.0

*Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet*

## A Win for Our Oceans

- Bolsters international engagement and cooperation to address marine debris,
- Directs the executive branch to prioritize ocean plastic pollution,
- Comprehensive assessment of plastic waste in the United States,
- Opportunity to reduce the creation of plastic waste

## Ocean Conservancy says:

“SOS 2.0 brings us several steps closer to the comprehensive, science-based approach that we need to tackle ocean plastic pollution.”

## Save Our Seas 2.0 Act Information Sheet

On January 9, 2020, the U.S. Senate voted unanimously to pass the *Save Our Seas (SOS) 2.0 Act*, S. 1982. This bipartisan legislation was introduced by Senators Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) and Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) to address the plastic debris crisis threatening coastal economies and harming marine life.

SOS 2.0 builds on the success of the *Save Our Seas Act*, signed into law by President Trump in October 2018.

The next important step is to get additional Congressional Representatives to co-sponsor this bill introduced by Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-Oregon) and already co-sponsored by 43 other representatives and get it passed in the House. It has been introduced as House Resolution (HR3969) SOS 2.0 Act with 10

original bi-partisan co-sponsors.

SOS 2.0 is much more comprehensive and ambitious than its predecessor, in particular because the final, Senate-passed version of the bill placed a greater emphasis on reducing plastic waste. With the added plastics reduction provisions, SOS 2.0 brings us several steps closer to the comprehensive, science-based approach that we need to tackle ocean plastic pollution.



## What Does SOS 2.0 Do?

The *Save Our Seas 2.0 Act* is composed of three main pieces:

1. Strengthening the United States' domestic marine debris response capability
2. Enhancing 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.

3. Improving domestic infrastructure to prevent marine debris through new grants for and studies of waste management.



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Call, write or email your U.S. representative to encourage them to co-sponsor this bill, to thank them if they are already a co-sponsor, and to encourage them to ask that this bill be moved forward for passage.

Dear [U.S. representative]:

Scientists estimate that more than 8 million metric tons of plastic is entering our ocean every year. If we don't act now, there could be a pound of plastic for every three pounds of fish in the ocean within the next decade.

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.

Recently, the Senate passed the Save Our Seas Act in a heartwarming display of bipartisan unity. Following the Senate's show of leadership on this critical issue, I hope that you will also encourage the House of Representatives to take action.

Marine debris is a critical issue for the communities and wildlife that depend on a healthy ocean. This is a bipartisan issue. Plastic pollution in our ocean and on our beaches matters to all Americans. Together, we can stem the tide on ocean trash. Please consider co-sponsoring HR3969, the Save our Seas Act.

*[Your comments and Signature]*

## Current Co-Sponsors

- Rep. Young, Don [R-AK-At Large]\*
- Rep. Aguilar, Pete [D-CA-31]
- Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]
- Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]
- Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]
- Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]
- Rep. Panetta, Jimmy [D-CA-20]
- Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-14]
- Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]
- Rep. Himes, James A. [D-CT-4]
- Rep. Buchanan, Vern [R-FL-16]
- Rep. Rooney, Francis [R-FL-19]\*
- Rep. Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [D-GA-2]
- Rep. Case, Ed [D-HI-1]
- Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]
- Rep. Casten, Sean [D-IL-6]
- \*Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]\*
- Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]
- Rep. Sarbanes, John P. [D-MD-3]
- Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]
- Rep. Stevens, Haley M. [D-MI-11]
- Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]
- Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5]
- Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]
- Rep. Pappas, Chris [D-NH-1]\*
- Rep. Kim, Andy [D-NJ-3]
- Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]
- Rep. Morelle, Joseph D. [D-NY-25]
- Rep. Rice, Kathleen M. [D-NY-4]
- Rep. Suozzi, Thomas R. [D-NY-3]
- Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]
- Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]
- Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]\*
- Rep. Houlahan, Chrissy [D-PA-6]
- Rep. Lamb, Conor [D-PA-17]
- Rep. Gonzalez-Colon, Jennifer [R-PR-At Large]
- Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]
- Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]
- Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]
- Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]\*
- Rep. Luria, Elaine G. [D-VA-2]
- Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]
- Rep. Larsen, Rick [D-WA-2]\*