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COMMITTEE ON  
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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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May 2, 2016

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Administrator  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Room 5128  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Administrator Sullivan:

I write to express my strong support for the designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, which would be located within my Congressional District. Designation of this site, which was added to the Inventory of Successful Nominations in October of last year, would provide protection for the many and diverse resources within the region. The lands and waters along the Central Coast of California included in the nomination boast natural, cultural, and economic importance, and the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would provide a much needed safeguard to ensure the preservation of this coastal treasure.

The waters included in the proposed Sanctuary have both historic and contemporary importance to this region and for the culture and livelihood of its residents. In addition to their current economic importance through both vibrant fisheries and tourism, these waters harbor the long history, culture, and spiritual heritage of the Native Americans that have resided along this coast for thousands of years. Designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would help ensure that this culture and history, as well as numerous natural wonders, is appropriately protected.

As a co-chair and founding member of the Congressional National Marine Sanctuary Caucus, I have seen how sanctuaries can positively impact the waters they protect and the communities that are near them. Sanctuaries have the power to protect and enhance our natural and cultural treasures, while bolstering coastal economies, including fisheries, and I believe that the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary has the potential to achieve all of these outcomes. I am particularly excited by this proposal given the overwhelming community-based support for the designation of this Sanctuary, and I believe that when protected, this site will confer the appropriate deference to the historic and natural significance of this site, while recognizing the importance of this region to the local fisheries and economy as highlighted in the approved nomination materials.

I strongly support designating the region identified within the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary nomination as a National Marine Sanctuary because a well-designed sanctuary

that strives to conserve and protect the natural, cultural, historic, and economic assets of this region will have significant long-term benefits and ensure that the cultural heritage and history of the site are preserved for current and future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of designating the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, and I look forward to working with you to ensure that we protect, preserve, and promote the waters off the Central Coast of California and all that they have to offer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lois Capps". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**LOIS CAPPS**  
**Member of Congress**  
**California 24<sup>th</sup> District**