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COASTAL STATES ORGANIZATION

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The Honorable Senator Bill Nelson
United States Senator
Senate Hart Office Building 716
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator
Senate Dirksen Office Building 555
Washington, DC 20510

June 14, 2016

Dear Senator Nelson and Senator Wicker:

On behalf of the nation's coastal states and territories, I write to thank you for the introduction of S. 3038, the Coastal Coordination Act of 2016. CSO supports the reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and your efforts to champion and empower states to effectively manage their coasts. Since 1970, the Coastal States Organization has represented the 35 coastal states and territories on ocean, Great Lakes and coastal resource management issues.

The National Coastal Management Program, created by the CZMA, has effectively addressed the country's most pressing coastal issues for more than 40 years. This unique state-federal partnership allows state coastal management programs to ensure the responsible use of coastal resources by balancing the needs of economic development, conservation of natural resources, protection and resiliency from coastal hazards, and all other potential impacts to the state's coastal zone. NOAA's Office for Coastal Management and the National Estuarine Research Reserves, the latter also created by the CZMA, have helped make this partnership flourish.

A common sense, bipartisan reauthorization is in keeping with the spirit of the original CZMA, which empowers states to make critical decisions coastal resources and managing their own coastlines with federal support. Legislation that builds on that foundation by reauthorizing this Act has been eagerly anticipated at the local and state levels.

CSO thanks you for your leadership on this important issue. This legislation is vital for the continued success states have demonstrated in managing their coasts and we look forward to working with Congress to authorize and reinvigorate the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Sincerely,

Mary Munson

Mary Munson
Executive Director



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