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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

April 5, 2018

The Honorable Salud Carbajal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

We have sent the accompanying letters on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board to the House Transportation Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation to reiterate support for H.R. 3682, the *Blue Whales and Blue Skies Act*.

Thank you for co-sponsoring H.R. 3682. As you know, the *Blue Whales and Blue Skies Act* would direct the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to create a Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program to reduce air pollution and harmful underwater acoustic impacts and the risk of fatal vessel whale strikes by recognizing voluntary reductions in the speed of vessels transiting the Greater Santa Barbara Channel Region. The program would be modeled after the pilot Vessel Speed Reduction Program administered by the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD), the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, the Environmental Defense Center, and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

Please continue to work with your colleagues who serve on the subcommittee to expedite action on the *Blue Whales and Blue Skies Act* or similar legislation to help reduce air pollution and the risk of fatal vessel whale strikes in the Greater Santa Barbara Channel Region. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest  
Washington Representative

DWG: awg  
Enclosures