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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

August 3, 2017

The Honorable Kamala Harris
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

I have sent the enclosed letter to Commerce Department Secretary Ross on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, expressing the Board's opposition to any efforts to reduce the size of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

In its Federal Register notice dated June 26, 2017, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration lists the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary amongst eleven National Marine Sanctuaries and Marine National Monuments subject to review under Executive Order 13795. The Sanctuary was established in 1980 in tandem with the Channel Islands National Park to form a national treasure that contributes significantly to a coastal tourist industry that generates nearly \$5 billion in State and local taxes annually. Together they attracted over 360,000 visitors in 2016 alone because of their significant recreational, scientific, historic, and cultural value. The Sanctuary is home to many rare species of birds and marine mammals, including the largest animal on earth, the blue whale. It supports thriving tourism, boating, and fishing industries that draw visitors from all over the world.

Santa Barbara County's 2017 Federal Platform expresses the Board's ongoing commitment to environmental protection and stewardship, and to engendering healthy communities by balancing social well-being, economic prosperity, and environmental responsibility. Any effort to reduce the size of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary would run contrary to these principles. Please join the County in opposing any efforts to reduce the size of the Sanctuary, with the potentially detrimental economic and environmental impacts that would accompany any such action.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg