



Erik G. Milito
President

**NATIONAL
OCEAN
INDUSTRIES
ASSOCIATION**

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Dear Senator Wicker:

The National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) supports S. 2166, the Regional Ocean Partnership Act, and the formal authorization of the Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROP) as partners with the Federal government.

America's ocean and coastal waters are an irreplaceable foundation of economic growth, national security, global competitiveness and health and well-being for our nation. The ocean and coastal areas provide our nation with food, energy, economic productivity, vital ecosystems and recreation and enjoyment. Coordination between stakeholders, at every level, can help us better understand and protect our oceans while building our maritime economies and way of life.

Regional Ocean Partnerships are well-positioned to understand the local complexities, challenges and concerns of our oceans and coastal waters. By fostering collaboration between Federal, state, local and tribal governments as well as other stakeholders, ROPs provide a unique role in supporting ocean and coastal health, sustainability and resiliency.

NOIA's broad membership of energy producers, service and supply companies, shipbuilders, fabricators, marine construction companies and more understand how complex, diverse and compatible oceanic activities can be. Along with producing the oil, gas and wind energy that is building a better world, NOIA's members live near, play in and depend on America's ocean and coastal waters and have a demonstrated commitment to the protection of the ocean environment. NOIA understands and appreciates the importance of the coexistence of diverse oceanic and coastal uses and industries.

NOIA looks forward to working with you in seeing this legislation, and its House companion piece, move through Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Milito", written in a cursive style.

Erik Milito,
NOIA President

Cc: The Honorable Doug Jones
The Honorable Bill Cassidy
The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable Maria Cantwell
The Honorable Edward Markey
The Honorable John Neely Kennedy
The Honorable Christopher Murphy
The Honorable Jeff Merkley