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# Congress of the United States
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September 6, 2013

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
c/o Betsy Wilson
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing to express my support of the Ocean Discovery Institute's (ODI) application to the California State Coastal Conservancy for continued support ($750,000 for construction) of its future Living Laboratory.

The Ocean Discovery Institute's programs enable young people from the urban community of City Heights, in central San Diego to transform their lives, community, and our world as science and environmental leaders. ODI and the students it serves have experienced tremendous successes. ODI participants have increased their science test scores by an average of 61%. In addition to increased test scores, 80% of students participating in the ODI program are attending four-year universities immediately after graduating high school. Because of these significant achievements, President Obama presented ODI the *Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring*.

The Ocean Discovery Institute's Living Laboratory will be a focal point for science and conservation education in California. I have continued to express support for the Living Lab project because it will enable the Ocean Discovery Institute to expand their work by engaging more than 20,000 young people each year from the San Diego region and beyond. The Coastal Conservancy's past support of this project has enabled significant progress and the project is now ready to move toward the next phase of construction.

I respectfully request that you give the Ocean Discovery Institute's grant application for construction of the Living Laboratory your full consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Davis

SUSAN A. DAVIS
Member of Congress

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TONI ATKINS
MAJORITY LEADER
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August 27, 2013

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Attn: Betsy Wilson

Dear Chairman Bosco and Members of the Coastal Conservancy:

I write in support of the Ocean Discovery Institute's proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy to fund the creation of the Living Lab, a landmark science education facility.

I have been involved with and supportive of this project since its initial conception and applaud the Conservancy for its early support of the pre-construction activities and its consideration of an additional grant. This project will provide San Diego's young people access to a state-of-the-art laboratory where they can make first-hand discoveries about science and the environment. Its location, at the head of Manzanita Canyon in City Heights, is within a one-mile walking distance of nine schools. The Living Lab will enable significant educational and stewardship opportunities within the surrounding urban population as well as within the broader San Diego region.

Ocean Discovery Institute's program participants have a proven track record of achieving at levels unprecedented for underserved populations. I urge the Conservancy to continue its support of this innovative project so that over 20,000 young people each year can experience the same success as academic and industry leaders skilled in the environment and sciences.

Warmly,

Toni Atkins

TONI ATKINS
Majority Leader
78th Assembly District

TA:ds



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