

The Honorable Henry E. Brown, Jr.  
United States House of Representatives  
103 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-4001

Re: Marine Environmental Physiology Research Program at the  
Belle W. Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Services

I am writing to register my support for the effort to establish a Marine Environmental Physiology Research Program with the aid of a \$2.4 million appropriation from NOAA. It is my belief that this program will strengthen the Belle W. Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences at Georgetown, SC as well as its parent institution, the University of South Carolina.

This effort is of particular importance to me as it will:

- Strengthen the academic institutions in South Carolina by developing modern research facilities with molecular and electrophysiological instrumentation that will attract investigators and research funding at the national and international level.
- Help to safeguard the environment of South Carolina for the benefits of endangered species, residents of the state and visitors that contribute to its tourist industry.
- Help in the fight against human diseases by developing new types of medication (such as popular glaucoma drugs that originate from the study of osmoregulation in shark) or novel cellular therapies (such as treatment of cardiac diseases by introducing specific shark proteins into the failing human heart).

It is my hope that you will offer your support to this new program which will be of considerable benefit to our bellowed state at a time when unemployment, economic difficulties and even some misguided partisan political efforts, are forcing its citizens to carry an unusually heavy burden.

Sincerely,

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