

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2010

The Honorable Madeleine Bordallo
Chairwoman
House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs,
Oceans and Wildlife
1337 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Brown
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs,
Oceans and Wildlife
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Bordallo and Ranking Member Brown:

We are writing to express our appreciation for scheduling an oversight hearing on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 on the conservation and education programs surrounding marine mammals at zoos and aquariums. This hearing is important in bringing attention to marine mammal public display and education programs.

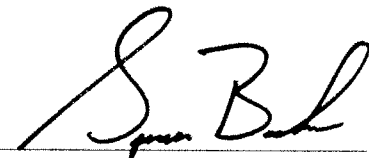
America's accredited zoos and aquariums are valued community institutions that effectively communicate science-based educational messages about the importance of conserving marine mammals and their habitats to more than 175 million visitors. 50 million annual visitors are children, and these facilities are a vital connection between children and the natural world.

In the last 10 years, Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)-accredited institutions formally trained more than 400,000 teachers, supporting science curricula with effective teaching materials and hands-on opportunities. Innovative teacher training programs that meet ongoing professional training standards include numerous Masters of Science programs in partnership with major colleges and universities. Through their research programs, including many for marine mammals, zoos and aquariums are major contributors to advancing scientific understanding of important conservation issues, as well as the health and welfare of these animals, including rescue and rehabilitation services for stranded and/or imperiled marine mammals.

These contributions can often be overlooked, which is why we commend you for convening this hearing. The strong, collaborative partnerships in marine mammal education, conservation, rescue, and rehabilitation that AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums enjoy with various agencies of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service can only be better understood as a result of this hearing.

Thank you again for your leadership on this matter.

Sincerely,



Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress



Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2010

The Honorable Madeleine Bordallo
Chairwoman
House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs,
Oceans and Wildlife
1337 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Brown
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs,
Oceans and Wildlife
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Bordallo and Ranking Member Brown:

We are writing to express our appreciation for scheduling an oversight hearing on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 on the conservation and education programs surrounding marine mammals at zoos and aquariums. This hearing is important in bringing attention to marine mammal public display and education programs.

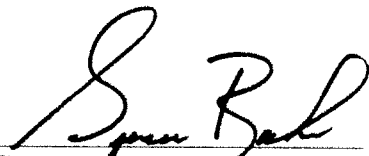
America's accredited zoos and aquariums are valued community institutions that effectively communicate science-based educational messages about the importance of conserving marine mammals and their habitats to more than 175 million visitors. 50 million annual visitors are children, and these facilities are a vital connection between children and the natural world.

In the last 10 years, Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)-accredited institutions formally trained more than 400,000 teachers, supporting science curricula with effective teaching materials and hands-on opportunities. Innovative teacher training programs that meet ongoing professional training standards include numerous Masters of Science programs in partnership with major colleges and universities. Through their research programs, including many for marine mammals, zoos and aquariums are major contributors to advancing scientific understanding of important conservation issues, as well as the health and welfare of these animals, including rescue and rehabilitation services for stranded and/or imperiled marine mammals.

These contributions can often be overlooked, which is why we commend you for convening this hearing. The strong, collaborative partnerships in marine mammal education, conservation, rescue, and rehabilitation that AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums enjoy with various agencies of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service can only be better understood as a result of this hearing.

Thank you again for your leadership on this matter.

Sincerely,



Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress



Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress