

**Opening Statement
Rep. Bob Inglis (R-SC)
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Environment
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HEARING**

***The Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act (Legislative Hearing
on H.R. 4174)***

June 5, 2008

Thank you for holding this hearing, Mr. Chairman.

On our way to Antarctica this past January, our CODEL stopped for a day in Australia to visit the Great Barrier Reef. Scientists there gave us a primer on the effects of ocean acidification on coral reefs. As the climate change debate continues, it is essential for us to focus not only on atmospheric effects, but on the oceanic implications as well, understanding that the ocean holds valuable resources for our economy and environment.

The federal government is currently working to address ocean acidification on many fronts. Programs such as NSF, NOAA, NASA, and USGS all have individual efforts at work to understand the changing ocean chemistry and its biological impacts. H.R. 4174, the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act, would organize and coordinate these efforts into a comprehensive research, monitoring and assessment program.

The effects of ocean acidification I witnessed first-hand in Australia highlights the necessity that this research should also be a global undertaking. The European Union is launching the “European Project of Ocean Acidification” next week in Paris. This project has been put together to fill in the many gaps in our understanding of the impacts and ramifications of ocean acidification. As we move forward, I would hope that our research agenda reflects the fact that this is an international issue and encourages our scientists to work with their colleagues overseas.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses on their perspectives of this legislation and any suggestions they may have to improve it.