

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 4, 2016

Mr. Steve Kinsey
Chair, California Coastal Commission
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 329
San Rafael, CA 94903-4193

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As members of the House of Representatives representing districts within California, we are proud of the thoughtful and wise stewardship of our magnificent California coast. Therefore, we are deeply concerned about the Special Meeting the Coastal Commission has scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2016, to consider the employment of Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester.

The essential responsibility of the Coastal Commission is to uphold the strong protections for our California coastline through lawful and non-partisan implementation of our foundational coastal protection laws, including the Coastal Protection Act, the California Coastal Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Since his unanimous approval by the Commission in 2011, Dr. Lester has upheld the law by thoughtfully balancing economic opportunity, access, and conservation for the benefit of all Californians.

As the population of California continues to increase it is imperative that we make smart, balanced decisions about coastal development and access to the coast for all Californians. Non-partisan independence in the staff of the California Coastal Commission is critical to the continued professional work of the Commission in the years and decades to come. A delicate balance between conservation and economic opportunity has been maintained over the decades because of the diligent work and non-partisan professionalism of the California Coastal Commission staff who uphold these bedrock laws and safeguard the interests of all of the people of California.

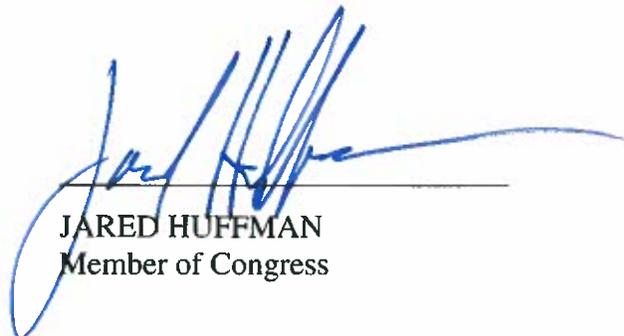
We are concerned that firing the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission will threaten the non-partisan nature of the Commission's work and endanger the very laws that have been so successfully upheld over the past decades. We are concerned about any actions that would politicize Commission staff and subsequently risk the legacy and validity of the Commission. We urge you to keep these concerns in mind when the Commission meets on February 10th.

Thank you for your consideration and we wish the Commission continued success.

Sincerely,



ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress

February 4, 2016

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JANICE HAHN
Member of Congress



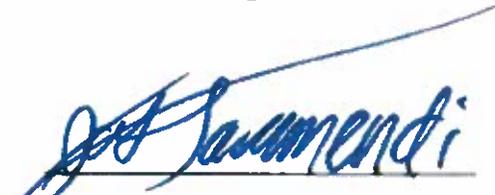
TED LIEU
Member of Congress



ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



ADAM SCHIFF
Member of Congress



JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress



JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress



MICHAEL M. HONDA
Member of Congress



SAM FARR
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor, State of California
Dr. Charles Lester, Executive Director, California Coastal Commission