

OAER

September 9, 2008

Jim Nussle
Director of the Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Jim Nussle,

I am writing to address the current problem of Right Whales colliding with ships. The importance of this issue is to protect these magnificent and already endangered species from ships' propellers striking them and causing them to either suffer severe injuries or death. The Right Whale population has suffered from man's choices in the past when they were being whaled by the thousands, but I am hoping, with your help, that these creatures will be given a better and fair chance of survival this time around. People often belittle or disregard the importance of whales, but they are the largest animals our world has had to offer. Most of these fatalities took place just off the coast of Georgia, and that is why I believe that this is a matter to be dealt with by our own government.

I sincerely ask for you help in providing these whales with a safe-zone. Although the National Marine Fisheries Service has tried to impose speed limits on ships, it will not be enough. It won't matter how fast or slow these ships are going, the fact remains that the propellers of these ships are still hitting those whales. The most logical solution is to give these whales complete protection from these ships which would mean changing the ships' routes to avoid the Right Whales' migratory route and nursery area. It is also important that we encourage responsible boating practices and education on understanding whales and their natural instincts when it comes to ships, because a lot of people do not know that the sound of the ships might not always repel these whales, but rather attract them. We are so curious about these creatures, yet we are the very reason why they are at the brink of extinction.

So, please help me in promoting and insuring the conservation of these endangered species, because if there is no ship strike reduction in the future, these Right Whales will become extinct long before you and I leave this world. I sincerely and deeply appreciate your time and consideration. Thank You!

Sincerely,

Joanna Tengco
62512 Arroyo Drive
Irvine CA 92617

References:

- 1) "Even the Whales Have Their Predators: Ships"
<http://select.nytimes.com/mem/tnt.html?emc=tnt&tntget=2008/04/12/us/12whales.html&tntemail=y>
- 2) "Creating a Safe Zone for Right Whales"
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/06/080606153019.htm>