SCRIPT FOR TALKING WITH REPRESENTATIVES

1. Phone:

"Hello,

My name is _____, I am one of your constituents. I live in _____ and my zipcode is _____.

I'm reaching out to speak to you about **the proposed draft bill from the Committee on Natural Resources to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972**.

I'm asking you to **oppose** the bill because **it would roll back the foundational safeguards that have protected marine mammal populations for over 50 years.** It threatens to undermine ocean health, reverse decades of conservation success, and harm the coastal economies that depend on productive, resilient marine ecosystems.***

****Offer to send support materials to your representative. You can find some **BELOW**.****

If the proposed bill moves forward, the MMPA will be less effective, less enforceable, and less protective of marine mammal species, and will significantly erode U.S. leadership in international marine conservation. The MMPA has long served as a model for science-based conservation policy that sustains healthy marine mammal populations and the ecosystems, fisheries, and coastal communities they support.

Again, I am asking for you to **oppose** this rule and to continue to safeguard the MMPA.

Thank you for your time. If needed, I can best be reached at _____ [preferred contact information]."

2. Email:

Dear Senator/Representative _____,

As one of your constituents, I'm reaching out to you about **the proposed draft bill from the Committee on Natural Resources to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972.**

I'm asking you to **oppose** the bill because **it would roll back the foundational safeguards that have protected marine mammal populations for over 50 years.** It threatens to undermine

ocean health, reverse decades of conservation success, and harm the coastal economies that depend on productive, resilient marine ecosystems. Healthy marine ecosystems regulate weather patterns, store carbon, support commercial fisheries, and generate billions in tourism revenue, especially through wildlife-watching [1, 2, 3].

If the proposed bill moves forward, the MMPA will be less effective, less enforceable, and less protective of marine mammal species, and will significantly erode U.S. leadership in international marine conservation. The MMPA has long served as a model for science-based conservation policy that sustains healthy marine mammal populations and the ecosystems, fisheries, and coastal communities they support.

Again, I am asking for you to **oppose** this rule and to continue to safeguard the MMPA.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[Name}
[Address]
[Email or phone if you would to be contacted]

[1]. NOAA. (2018). *Tourism and Recreation*. Noaa.gov. https://coast.noaa.gov/states/fast-facts/tourism-and-recreation.html

[2]. OECD. (2019). *Biodiversity: Finance and the Economic and Business Case for Action.* https://www.oecd.org/environment/resources/biodiversity/G7-report-Biodiversity-Finance-and-the-Economic-and-Business-Case-for-Action.pdf

[3]. *Keystone species: how marine mammals can tell us about ocean health.* (2022). Imperial Bioscience Review. https://imperialbiosciencereview.wordpress.com/2022/11/25/keystone-species-how-marine-mammals-can-tell-us-about-ocean-health/