

President Barack Obama

The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
comments: 202-456-1111; switchboard: 202-456-1414
fax: 202-456-2461; web mail: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

The International Whaling Commission

The Red House, 135 Station Road
Impington, Cambridge
Cambridgeshire CB24 9NP, UK
ph: +44 (0) 1223 233 971; fax: +44 (0) 1223 232 876
email: secretariat@iwcoffice.org, iwcjournal@iwcoffice.org, webmaster@iwcoffice.org

Nick J. Rahall II, House Natural Resources Committee Chairman

Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
ph: 202-225-6065; fax: 202-225-1931
web mail: <http://www.rahall.house.gov/?sectionid=9§iontree=9>

Otto J. Wolff, Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230
ph: 202-482-2000; email: owolff@doc.gov, webmaster@doc.gov

Nancy Sutley, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality

722 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503
ph: 202-395-5750; fax: 202-456-6546
Jon Carson, Chief Of Staff for Nancy Sutley: jcarson@ceq.eop.gov
Horst Greczmiel, CEQ Associate Director, NEPA: horst_greczmiel@ceq.eop.gov
Edward Boling, General Counsel: eboling@ceq.eop.gov

Ms. Hilary Clinton, Secretary of State

U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520
ph: 202-647-4000; fax: 202-647-2283
web mail: http://contact-us.state.gov/cgi-bin/state.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php
presidential campaign email: questions@friendsofhillary.com

Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230
ph: 202-482-3436; email: jane.lubchenco@noaa.gov

Marine Mammal Commission

4340 East-West Highway, Suite 700
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
ph: 301-504-0087; fax: 301-504-0099
email: mmc@mmc.gov, tragen@mmc.gov, bgisiner@mmc.gov, pthomas@mmc.gov

Dear Mr. President and Honorable Government Officials:

The United States once played a vital part in protecting whales and their oceanic habitat. As a nonpartisan voice for the International Whaling Commission (IWC), it helped shape decades of sound conservation.

That's about to change if U.S. IWC Commissioner Dr. William Hogarth successfully removes a key safeguard for these giant marine mammals.

Whales are already vulnerable to pollution, global warming, seismic and naval sonar, drilling, fishnet entrapment, ship strikes, habitat loss and more human hazards. Yet Dr. Hogarth wants to dilute the IWC's moratorium on commercial whaling.

Granted, the commercial ban has been difficult to enforce. Japan, Iceland and Norway have long exploited an IWC exemption for "scientific whaling." There is no rationale for butchering whales to analyze migration, age, ecology or behavior. Eminent scientists and legal authorities rebuke "scientific whaling" as pointless. In fact, science-based slaughter is a veil for commerce in whale meat.

Dr. Hogarth further undercuts whale preservation with his proposal to accept some commercial whaling and allow it in coastal waters. I encourage you to appoint the Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as the U.S. IWC Commissioner and oppose strategies that endorse Special Permit catches or "Coastal Whaling." I hope you will uphold IWC regulations and discount any type whaling presently forbidden under them.

The U.S. ought to use its clout to halt increased whaling from Japan, Iceland and Norway — not appease them with watered down rules. Japan, in particular, has continually defied international treaty obligations and hunted endangered whales.

Moreover, whale hunts are profoundly inhumane. Harpoons literally explode inside their bodies. It can take a half to full hour for a whale to die. Some, tied to the side of ships, suffocate as they thrash in vain.

Please revitalize America's leadership in the IWC with a U.S. Commissioner who facilitates conservation instead of killing.

Thank you,