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N E W S R E L E A S E

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## Ocean Champions Strategically Mobilizes Key Gilchrest Voters to Ensure Ocean Health

Maryland's Republican Primary Winner May  
Be Determined by Less Than 2500 Votes

**February 4, 2008, Capitola, CA** Maryland's First District Congressional incumbent, Rep. Wayne Gilchrest, is in the fight of his life battling two well-funded opponents in the Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> Republican primary. In response, nonpartisan political group Ocean Champions is launching an aggressive 'GET OUT THE VOTE' campaign to mobilize Gilchrest supporters in the district.

"There is a lot at stake in this race," said Dr. David Wilmot, PhD, Co-Founder and President of Ocean Champions. "Representative Gilchrest stands out among Republicans as a leader for the oceans and the environment. His years of service on the Natural Resources Committee have helped the Chesapeake Bay, and the oceans at large. If he were to be replaced by an actively anti-environmental candidate – the ecological, and perhaps economic, health of Maryland's Bay will be extremely vulnerable."

The candidate who receives the most votes will determine Maryland's Republican primary winner; a 50% majority is not necessary. So in a race with multiple candidates, the margin of victory could end up being very slim. With 50,000 anticipated voters, as little as 2500 votes could change the outcome of this election. "This is one case where every vote does indeed count," added Dr. Wilmot.

Ocean Champions has been working with a coalition of other like-minded environmental and Republican groups to make strategic independent expenditures for Gilchrest. As Feb. 12th draws near, Ocean Champions will launch a voter identification and turnout campaign, targeting 7500 potential Gilchrest supporters, and urging them to vote.

Ocean Champions endorsed Rep. Gilchrest as an 'Ocean Champion,' and proactively supported his campaign in the last two elections, on behalf of ocean health. Ocean Champions is a national nonprofit political organization that endorses pro-ocean Congressional candidates and lobbies members of Congress on behalf of the oceans. To learn more visit [www.oceanchampions.org](http://www.oceanchampions.org)

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