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South Florida Congressmen Call for Additional Funding for Clean, Renewable Ocean Energy

Washington, DC – U.S. Representative Ron Klein (FL-22) and U.S. Representative Robert Wexler (FL-19) today released a letter sent to Rep. Peter Visclosky (IN-01) and Rep. David Hobson, (OH-07), the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development. In the letter, the South Florida Congressmen call for the appropriation of the full \$50 million for research and development in marine energy authorized by Congress in a major energy bill passed earlier this year.

“From the national security necessity of breaking our dangerous dependence on foreign oil to creating good jobs to reigniting the spark of American innovation, there are endless advantages to a serious investment in clean, renewable ocean energy,” Klein said. “With over 70 miles of coastline in Florida’s 22nd district, our community businesses and research institutes will spearhead the country’s progress in ocean energy research. I look forward to the day when we can generate enough energy to power 1/3 of Florida -- all through the current of the Gulf Stream.”

“Ocean energy is clean, renewable, and incredibly promising,” said Wexler. “South Florida is leading the way in research on ocean thermal energy, hydropower, and other renewable marine technologies. As Americans feel the financial strain from skyrocketing energy costs, I hope Congress will take aggressive action to support diversity and innovation in alternative energy research.”

In their letter, Reps. Klein and Wexler encourage the appropriation of the full \$50 million for ocean energy research authorized earlier this year, when Congress passed the Energy Independence and Security Act. The Act makes an unprecedented investment in marine renewable energy. The South Florida delegation has been at the forefront of highlighting the potential of marine renewable energy, with Rep. Klein hosting a briefing on ocean energy for Members of Congress in May, which featured scientists from Florida Atlantic University.