

Environment

The 14th Congressional District has led some of the most important environmental efforts in California and our country to protect and preserve our environment. Throughout Rep. Eshoo's years of public service, she has developed policies to protect our coast, clean up the air we breathe and water we drink, and bring new, enlightened policies to the table.

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Climate Change

The need to control greenhouse gases is well documented and beyond dispute.

In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued its Fourth Assessment Report. The Report, prepared by more than 600 scientists from 40 nations, stated with greater than 90 percent certainty that most of the observed increase in global temperatures since the mid-20th Century is due to increased concentrations of heat-trapping gases caused by human activities.

If concentrations of greenhouse gases are not stabilized over the next 45 years, we will see an even greater increase in temperatures and severe environmental consequences including: a rise in sea levels, the loss of snow-pack, a thaw of the permafrost, higher ocean temperatures and increased ocean acidity; more intense hurricanes, stronger storms, longer droughts and more severe flooding; and the extinction of plant and animal species. Some of these effects are already being observed; others are inevitable. But we can prevent some of the worst results if we act now.

As the largest emitter of greenhouse gases in world, the United States must provide the leadership to address this global problem. Major U.S. companies, including those that are the largest emitters of greenhouse gases, have called for policies to require sharp reductions in emissions.

To meet the challenge, Rep. Eshoo is an original cosponsor of H.R. 1590, the Safe Climate Act. Like California's landmark global warming law, A.B. 32, this legislation will reduce emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050.

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The bill directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set a cap on greenhouse gas emissions from the largest emitters and allow emitters to meet the cap by buying and selling emissions allowances. Beginning in 2011, the bill will cut emissions by roughly 2% per year, reaching 1990 emissions levels by 2020. After 2020, it cuts emissions by roughly 5% per year to meet the 2050 target.

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The bill requires EPA to set standards for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles that are at least as stringent as current California standards. EPA must tighten these standards in 2014 and periodically thereafter.

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The bill will establish a national Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), requiring an increasing proportion of electricity to be generated from renewable energy sources. The standard will increase gradually, reaching 20% of retail electricity sold in 2020. This is similar to the RPS that California and the state's utilities are already implementing.

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The bill directs the Department of Energy to establish national standards requiring utilities to obtain 1% of their energy supplies through energy efficiency improvements at customer facilities. Each year until 2020, utilities would be required to secure another 1% of their supplies through energy efficiency.

By becoming the international leader in new energy technologies, the U.S. has the opportunity to benefit economically as we help save the planet.

There is an unprecedented amount of private investment in new technologies that will help us meet our energy needs without adding to greenhouse gas concentrations. New technologies could enhance our domestic energy security and also help 2 billion people in the developing world who don't have access to reliable energy supplies.

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Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

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California's Coast and America's Ocean Resources

The California Coast is one of the world's most beautiful and productive natural resources. Vigilant stewardship is now required to preserve it for future generations.

The value that Californians place on our Coast can be found in the strong support for the four National Marine Sanctuaries that cover most of California's coast and ocean resources. The goal of the sanctuaries is to conserve, protect, and enhance their biodiversity, ecological integrity and cultural legacy.

Rep. Eshoo has worked to enhance the working relationship between the two sanctuaries of the 14th Congressional District (Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay) and their local partners and stakeholders. She has worked to enhance the presence of the sanctuary at Pillar Point Harbor, and she has worked with Rep. Sam Farr to secure federal funding for a sanctuary visitors' center in Santa Cruz.

Protecting our coastal resources will take a new approach at the federal, regional, state, and local levels. Californians are again leading the way. Two prominent local figures, former-Rep. Leon Panetta, and Half Moon Bay fisherman and advocate, Pietro Parravano, were part of the Pew Oceans Commission, which released its report and recommendations in 2003. That effort influenced the report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, which made its recommendations to the Bush Administration in 2004. However, there's still much more work to be done in terms of implementing the recommendations of the commissions, which are now working together as the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative.

To implement the systematic changes called for by the Commissions, Rep. Eshoo is a cosponsor of the Oceans Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act, or OCEANS-21. The bill will:

- Establish a comprehensive National Oceans Policy and guiding principles for use and management of U.S. coasts, oceans, and Great Lakes and their resources;
- Formally codify the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), strengthening its important mission and functions;
- Enhance national oceans governance structure, including codifying the Committee on Ocean Policy;
- Promote ecosystem-based, regional oceans governance, including collaborations among federal, state, and local management entities;
- Enhance responsible ocean stewardship through education, information collection, and citizen involvement; and
- Establish an Oceans and Great Lakes Conservation Trust Fund to support the purposes and policies of OCEANS-21.

Related resources:

- Joint Ocean Commission Initiative
- Pew Oceans Commission
- U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
- Gulf of the Farallones
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
- Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

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Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling

Legal and administrative moratoria prevent new oil and gas leases off the California Coast through 2012 and the National Marine Sanctuary designations prohibit drilling in the areas they cover. However, the Administration has always had its eye on the California Coast as a site for oil and gas drilling, and there has been a renewed effort to dispense with the coastal protections and again allow drilling along the coast. Rep. Eshoo opposes proposals to permit offshore drilling and has fought efforts to weaken the moratorium.

To enhance the protections provided by the marine sanctuaries, Rep. Eshoo is an original cosponsor of H.R. 1187, the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act, which enlarges the boundaries of these sanctuaries and makes the current administrative bans on oil and gas development permanent. (There is already statutory ban on drilling within the Monterey Bay sanctuary.)

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Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
In each year of his tenure the President has called on Congress to pass legislation to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas drilling. Rep. Eshoo has always believed it would be a mistake to scar one of the last pristine landscapes in the United States for a temporary supply of oil. Indeed, the amount of oil that might be extracted from the refuge will not prevent U.S. dependence on foreign oil from growing, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Rep. Eshoo is a cosponsor of H.R. 539, the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act, which would make the ANWR a wilderness area, forever protecting it from development.

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Forest Protection

Rep. Eshoo is the lead sponsor of the Act to Save America's Forests. This bill calls for the end to clearcut logging, promotes more environmentally friendly and economically sustainable logging, and provides strong protection for the last remaining core areas of forest biodiversity in the United States, including old-growth forests and all roadless areas. The bill preserves native biodiversity on federal forestlands and changes how we protect and treat our public lands.

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Bair Island

In 1999, Rep. Eshoo was successful in securing federal funding to purchase Bair Island and add it to the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Working with the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), Citizens to Complete the Refuge, and thousands of constituents, 1,600 acres of critical wetlands were preserved for future generations. This action sustains a critical habitat for 123 species of birds, 13 species of mammals, and 63 species of fish. With only 15% of S.F. Bay wetlands remaining, we must continue to make strides to protect our region's fragile environment.

After years of work, we're now at the stage where the restoration of this important habitat can be completed. Rep. Eshoo is working with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, Save the Bay, local government and community groups to secure the funding for this project.

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South San Francisco Bay Wetlands

In 2000, Rep. Eshoo led her California House colleagues in securing \$8 million for the purchase of thousands of acres of precious San Francisco Bay wetlands from Cargill, Inc. With federal seed money and support, the state and federal government, along with four prominent California foundations (the Hewlett, Packard, Moore, and Goldman Foundations), were able to acquire approximately 15,000 acres of southern S.F. Bay lands for inclusion in the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The final agreement was completed in 2003. Under the leadership of the California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Coastal Conservancy, the process of returning these salt ponds to suitable tidal habitat is underway. Rep. Eshoo has helped secure funding to

enable the Army Corps of Engineers to initiate a study of the South Bay Shoreline. This work will help protect against flooding and foster the overall restoration effort.

Related resources:

- South Bay Restoration

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Sand Hill Bluff

In 2003, Rep. Eshoo secured \$2 million in federal funding through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the acquisition of Sand Hill Bluff outside Davenport in Santa Cruz County. The acquisition was completed in May 2005. This picturesque 154-acre property, suggestive of the Cliffs of Dover, is a 5,000 year-old archeological site. It will be managed by California State Parks, but a portion will be reserved for agriculture and will never be developed.

Related resources:

- Trust for Public Land press release

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Rancho Corral de Tierra - Golden Gate National Recreation Area

After nearly five years of work, the Congress passed the Rancho Corral de Tierra Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act, and the bill became law on December 20, 2005. The bill expands the GGNRA boundary to include over 4,000 acres from Rancho Corral de Tierra near El Granada and 300 acres around Devil's Slide.

Rep. Eshoo was a key cosponsor of the bill, starting from its initial introduction in 2001 when she testified in support of it before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks and spoke in favor of the bill in the House in December. The Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) has negotiated the acquisition of this property from willing sellers. With the boundary expansion complete, federal funding will need to be secured to complete the purchase and transfer to GGNRA. It builds upon Rep. Eshoo's successful efforts to secure \$10.5 million in federal funds to purchase the Phleger Estate and add it to the GGNRA in 1994.

Related resources:

- Peninsula Open Space Trust

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Salmon Fishing Disaster

Rep. Eshoo worked hard to provide \$170 million in aid to the salmon industry earlier this year, with \$121 million intended to assist California . The President announced his intention to divert \$70 million of that money to bail out a government contractor for the 2010 Census and Rep. Eshoo strongly opposed this unacceptable redirection of critical aid to the families and businesses who rely on salmon for their very livelihoods.

In September it was announced that NOAA would begin disbursing only \$100 million and that the Bush Administration has not released the remaining \$70 million in spite of the Congressional appropriation of \$170 million for this purpose.

Rep. Eshoo joined her West Coast colleagues in writing to the Office of Management and Budget to insist that the full \$170 million is provided to the West Coast salmon industry. Rep. Eshoo has pledged to continue to press the White House to ensure that the fishing industry receives the full amount of the Congressionally approved assistance.

Related resources:

- Letter from Rep. Eshoo to OMB

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