



WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION

James A. Yoder, Ph.D., *Vice President for Academic Programs and Dean*

April 4, 2007

Dr. Jean-Pierre Gattuso, Coordination Office
EPOCA (European Project on Ocean Acidification)

Dear Dr. Gattuso:

I am writing this letter of support in my capacity as Chair, Carbon Cycle Scientific Steering Group (CCSSG) – a small group of scientists sponsored by the U.S. Global Change Research Program which discusses carbon cycle research priorities twice per year with representatives of 9 U.S. Federal agencies with interests in the global carbon cycle, including NSF, NASA and NOAA.

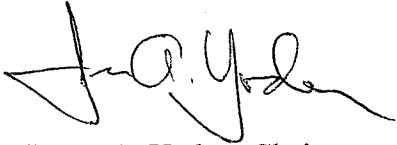
My understanding is that EPOCA is interested in linking with major national (non-EU), European and international initiatives related to the ocean carbon cycle, and specifically with groups interested in studying the processes and impacts related to ocean acidification. At present, one of the CCSSG priorities is the Ocean Carbon and Climate Change (OCCC) program. OCCC's major goal is to answer the question, "What are the magnitudes and distributions of ocean carbon sources and sinks on seasonal to centennial time scales, and what are the processes controlling their dynamics?" Thus, this program is directly related to understanding the processes affecting the rate of ocean acidification.

In addition, the CCSSG recently (November 2006) specifically chose ocean acidification and its effects as a major research theme for the future. In our discussions with representatives from U.S. Federal agencies, we noted that there is considerable interest at NSF, NOAA and other agencies for research programs related to this theme.

The CCSSG is also very supportive of cooperation between U.S. research programs and those sponsored by other nations, particularly for ocean research. As the U.S. research programs related to ocean acidification develop over the next few years, I am confident that the researchers involved will be very interested in cooperating with EPOCA, and this cooperation will certainly be encouraged by the CCSSG.

Good luck with your emerging research program, and I look forward to fruitful cooperation in the coming years between U.S. and EPOCA researchers.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. A. Yoder', with a stylized, cursive script.

James A. Yoder, Chair
U.S. Carbon Cycle Scientific Steering Group

cc D. Rice (NSF)
S. Doney (Chair, SSC-OCB)
R. Feely (NOAA)