

"Protect the
Ocean and You
Protect Yourself."



October 15, 2012

Mr. President of México, Felipe Calderón Hinojosa
Mr. President Elect of México, Enrique Peña Nieto
Mr. Governor of Baja California Sur, Marcos Covarrubias Villaseñor
Mrs. Mayor of La Paz, Esthela Ponce Beltrán
Mr. Mayor of San José del Cabo, Antonio Agundez
Senators of BCS: Ricardo Barroso Agramont, Isaías Gonzalez Cuevas, Carlos
Mendoza Davis
Federal Representatives of BCS: Arturo de la Rosa Escalante, Francisco Pelayo
Covarrubias, Alfredo Zamora García
People of Baja California Sur, stewards of the Gulf of California
To the public opinion.

On our trip to Mexico City this past March, we had the honor and opportunity to speak in the Mexican Congress during a special ceremony. We addressed, among other topics, our concern for the well being of the precious Gulf of California, also called Sea of Cortes, in particular Cabo Pulmo. We were told that legislation was in motion to protect the vital fresh water resources, flora and fauna in the region that UNESCO has designated as a Natural World Heritage Site and was added to the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

To our dismay, we have been informed by the Baja California community that the mines, Los Cardones and Pitalla, located in Sierra de la Laguna Biosphere Reserve, between La Paz and Los Cabos, are still seeking permits to operate using the damaging process of open pit toxic mining. We firmly support efforts by the people of Baja California Sur to stop such mining project. If the authorities in charge of protecting this fragile ecosystem do not act immediately, taking into consideration the present and future generations, the contamination and destruction of what Jacques Cousteau described as the *world's aquarium*, would be inevitable.

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We call upon the Mexican lawmakers to carefully judge this case and dictate laws that will stop any more threats to the Gulf of California, the life support system for the people of Baja California. The gain for some does not justify another ecocide to our embattled Planet.

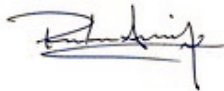
Respectfully,

Jean-Michel Cousteau



President
Ocean Futures Society

Ruben D. Arvizu



Director for Latin America
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