



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 13, 2005**

Teri Shore, Bluewater Network – a division of Friends of the Earth 415-544-0790, ext.20, mobile 707-280-1935
Alaska: Gershon Cohen, Campaign to Safeguard America's Waters, 907-766-3005 mobile 907-723-8022
Washington: Fred Felleman, Ocean Advocates, 206-783-6676, mobile 206-595-3825
Hawaii: Cha Smith, KAHEA, 808-524-8220

Cruise Ship Pollution Bill to Ban Sewage Dumping along US Coast

Washington DC -- Cruise ship dumping within 12 miles of the US coastline will be prohibited under a federal bill being introduced Thursday, April 14, by a bi-partisan group that includes Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Representatives Sam Farr (D-CA) and Christopher Shays (R-CT). The Clean Cruise Ship Act will revamp outdated environmental laws that now allow the rapidly expanding fleet of luxury liners to dump millions of gallons of sewage and polluted wastewater overboard every day. The bill was introduced last year, but was not heard by Congress.

"The time to bring these pleasure polluters under control is long overdue," said Teri Shore, Campaign Director for Bluewater Network, a national environmental group that drafted key provisions in the bill after waiting five years for US EPA to respond to its petition to reduce cruise pollution. "This bill provides a simple solution to a very messy problem—human feces and dirty water trailing behind cruise ships sailing our coasts."

The bill is needed because cruise ships legally discharge millions of gallons of sewage and dirty waters into US coastal waters and ports every day. Human waste from ships is more concentrated than any generated on shore. It is well documented that human feces from any source can contaminate bathing beaches, shellfish eaten by humans and marine life, and sensitive estuaries and coastal waters.

Cruise ships are equipped to contain and treat wastes before discharging 12 miles offshore or beyond. Despite cruise industry claims, voluntary industry standards are not monitored or enforced and new treatment systems do not remove all pollutants, such as metals, chemicals and nitrogen.

The Clean Cruise Ship Act will: prohibit discharges of treated or untreated sewage (including sewage sludge), graywater and bilge water from cruise ships within 12 miles of U.S. shores; establish effluent limits for treated sewage and graywater discharged beyond 12 miles; provide for inspection of discharge operations and equipment, including sampling and monitoring, as well as pilot programs for onboard observers and the use of transponders; implement whistleblower protection for employees who report employers' noncompliance; empower citizens to commence a civil action against anyone in violation of the Act; and enact penalty provisions for violations.

Alaska, California and Maine have already enacted new cruise pollution laws; Washington and Hawaii are working to convert voluntary agreements into enforceable laws. A national law would provide a consistent standard for all US waters.

Cruise ships are floating cities, carrying 5,000 or more people that on a one-week voyage can generate more than:

- 1.5 million gallons of "graywater" (wastewater from sinks, showers, galleys, and laundry facilities)
- 200,000 gallons of sewage, and
- 35,000 gallons of oil-contaminated water

The cruise industry has a legacy of polluting our seas. From 1993 to 2003, cruise ships committed more than 300 acts of dumping oil, garbage, hazardous waste, sewage and graywater, violating air pollution laws, inflicting damage to coral reefs, and falsifying environmental records, paying more than \$80 million in fines and restitution.

###