



THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative
P.O. Box 4551
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

Dear Youth Delegates:

It is an honor for me to welcome you to the eleventh annual Youth Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development. I am pleased to learn this year's Summit is dedicated to the ocean.

As you know, I am passionate about the ocean and finding ways to protect this important resource. Last June, I hosted the Our Ocean Conference, where we set a new course for ocean conservation and began to build consensus around a clear and effective policy agenda involving governments, the private sector, civil society leaders, and other stakeholders around the world. This October, Chile will host the Our Ocean Conference where we intend to keep building momentum to protect our ocean.

We must live up to our responsibility to leave future generations the same healthy, vibrant ocean we have been fortunate enough to enjoy. We need as many people as possible contributing to solutions. I encourage you to seek opportunities to make your voices heard and to present your ideas for sustainable development of the ocean.

Enjoy your time in Massachusetts and thank you for building a sustainable world and protecting our ocean. Our task is a difficult one, but with young, committed leaders like yourselves, I have no doubt we will prevail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Kerry".

John F. Kerry