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# **HARBOR BRANCH OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE**

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## FOUNDATION

### **ADVOCACY POLICY**

The mission of Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation, Inc. (HBOIF) is to support Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, a research institute within Florida Atlantic University.

HBOIF provides funding and support for research and education in marine sciences and ocean engineering. Our goal is to support FAU Harbor Branch as it increases understanding of oceans and coastal areas through exploration and scientific investigation.

In addition to advocating for specific Foundation-related interests (protecting nonprofit status and operations), HBOIF views its advocacy role as to advocate for the betterment of FAU's Harbor Branch. In particular, HBOIF advocates protecting and increasing funding through its four Specialty License Plates which annually contributes significantly to FAU Harbor Branch's research for "Ocean Science for a Better World."

In its efforts to support FAU Harbor Branch, HBOIF may at times be called upon to voice opinion on various issues or topics or to support particular legislation which might lead the public to perceive HBOIF has a preferred societal or political viewpoint or stance. Care will be taken to ensure that the Foundation does not engage in advocating for or promoting solutions to environmental problems with regard to the oceans and estuaries unless such solutions are clearly supported by FAU Harbor Branch scientific research.

Using FAU Harbor Branch scientific results as our basis, HBOIF seeks to educate with facts about the oceans and estuaries as appropriate. HBOIF understands the value of discussing with FAU Harbor Branch any proposed statements or actions to ensure that such statements or actions would not be at odds with or potentially harm the Institute and its mission or FAU.

We recognize that current and future individual Board Members may have sincere and passionate views on various issues or topics or supporting particular legislation that may be inconsistent with this policy. HBOIF respects their right to publically voice personal viewpoints. Board Members agree to refrain from speaking on behalf of the Foundation or FAU Harbor Branch unless specifically delegated to do so. HBOIF's President & CEO is the primary "face" of the organization to the outside world and delegated as the regular official spokesperson unless the Board of Directors deems an alternate for specific situations.