Greetings…

For a better living condition and the sustainability for all human race, as the con side, we firmly believe that governments should NOT prefer the exploration of space beyond the Earth’s mesosphere to the exploration of Earth’s ocean.

Definition should of no doubt be mentioned first as we define the term according to OED that government as the group of people with the authority to govern a country or state including but not limited to national goverments, municipal governments, exploration as the action of exploring an unfamiliar area and ocean as the the expanse of salt water that covers most of the earth's surface and surrounds its land masses. Therefore, in order for the con side to win the debate is to prove that benefit ocean exploration brings to us outweighs what space exploration will bring to us. In comparison with the vast universe, the earth’s ocean brings more imminent, consistent and efficient resources, more promising rewards and most importantly, a much higher ratio of return per capita.

It is our first contention that the direct outcome of maritime exploration is to obtain the vast amount of resource and energy inside the ocean through a more efficient and environmentally friendlier method.

The key profit ocean brings is water. There are some 16,000 desalination plants on the planet, and their numbers are rising. The amount of desalted water produced around the world has more than tripled since 2000, according to the Center for Inland Desalination Systems at the University of Texas at El Paso. Thereby, governments should consistently invest in the further development of water desalination as the ocean is considered the storehouse for water accounting for more then 96.5 % of the earth’s water.

Beyond that, as land based resources become increasingly scarce, those in the oceans are attracting greater interest. The fuels and ores in the deep sea are particularly tempting. But wind and wave power could also meet a proportion of our energy needs. In accordance with the World Ocean Review, until now drilling has been in relatively shallow waters, but companies are now penetrating greater depths, which requires government’s support and investment on the exploration of deeper oceans. No to mention other valuable ocean energy sources that are just contamination less as that of the solar power. A 2006 report from United States Department of the Interior estimates that capturing just 0.1% of the available energy from the Gulf Stream would supply Florida with 35% of its electrical needs.

Our second contention is that ocean exploration benefits the government especially in the field of economy. The U.S. maritime transportation system carries 95 percent of U.S. foreign trade. Each year, ships move two billion tons of freight in and out of our nation's ports. 14 percent of U.S. counties that are adjacent to the coast produce 45 percent of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP), with close to three million jobs (one in 50) directly dependent on the resources of the oceans and Great Lakes. In 2011, the ocean economy, which includes six economic sectors that depend on the ocean and Great Lakes, contributed more than $282 billion to the U.S. GDP and provided more than 2.8 million jobs. Tourism and Recreation account for 70 percent of the ocean economy's total employment and 34 percent of its GDP. Offshore Mineral Extraction accounts for another 37 percent of the ocean economy's GDP. Thereby, with the statistics shown it is of no doubt that exploring ocean in a better and more instant solution as for governments.

Our third contention goes as the following, ocean exploration would also largely benefit human race by providing precious data for climate study, geographical and biological research. At the beginning of the 21st century, a network of autonomous Argo-floats started to be deployed all across the ocean and there are currently 3,600 floats providing around 100,000 measurements per year. As of the current case, Argo is now the dominant source of information about the climatic state of the oceans and is being widely used in many publications. Argo data were critical in the drafting of Chapter 3 (Working Group 1) of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (released September 2013) and an appendix was added to that chapter to emphasize the profound change that had taken place in the quality and volume of ocean data since the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report and the resulting improvement in confidence in the description of surface salinity changes and upper-ocean heat content.

I would like to end with a quote from the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere: Office of the Chief Scientist, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Ocean exploration gives mankind a sense of human progress and heritage. It provides the experience and knowledge necessary to undertake stewardship of the ocean and its resources, and thus sets a course for future generations to navigate. What lies ahead is still unknown. Whatever it is, however, will be influenced by what is found through tomorrow’s exploration – and, will likely be different than today’s predictions!”