

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2020

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

We write to urge you to quickly implement the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, which provides \$300 million for fishery participants facing unprecedented and severe impacts due to the novel coronavirus. We ask that you work with NOAA, impacted stakeholders, and Native American Tribes to rapidly provide this assistance and to do so in a fair and transparent process that allocates sufficient funding to our impacted constituents and communities throughout the country.

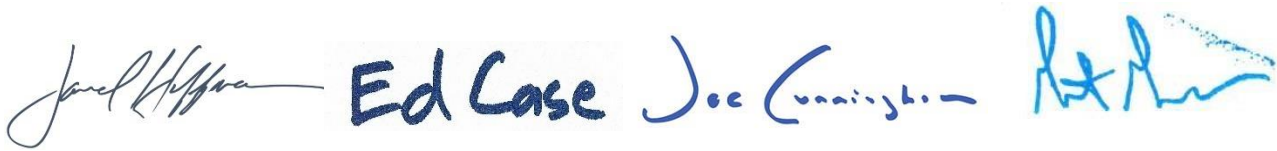
U.S. commercial and recreational fisheries generate over \$200 billion in sales and 1.7 million jobs, but due to the ongoing public health crisis, fisheries dependent businesses and communities are facing extreme economic hardship from loss of markets. These impacts are felt throughout the industry - charter guides and recreational businesses; processors, retailers, and the entire seafood supply chain; and fishing captains, their crews, and the communities they serve are all facing significant challenges. The U.S. is a global leader in sustainable fisheries management and has a rich fishing history and culture, but significant loss of economic activity threatens the future of fisheries and associated infrastructure throughout the country.

The crisis has also significantly impacted Tribes who rely on fisheries for cultural, subsistence, and commercial harvest. Fisheries assistance is critical to mitigate the direct economic impacts these communities are facing and ensure they have adequate resources to continue providing basic services for their communities throughout this crisis. Furthermore, many tribal and non-tribal communities impacted by the ongoing crisis have also faced fishery disasters in recent years with long delays in disaster relief, so they are especially threatened by additional economic hardship.

We urge you to work quickly to ensure that fishery participants and the communities they support see this financial assistance as soon as possible. We also ask that you ensure a transparent and fair process for distributing this relief and provide detailed guidance for requests, explicit timelines for review and distribution of funds, and clear standards for decision making and funding allocations. Rapid relief is critical now for the future of coastal communities, our constituents, and a thriving fishing industry.

Thank you for your work during this time.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Ed Case
Member of Congress

Joe Cunningham
Member of Congress

Garret Graves
Member of Congress

/s/ Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress

/s/ Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

/s/ Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

/s/ Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress

/s/ Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

/s/ Ted Lieu
Member of Congress

/s/ David Rouzer
Member of Congress

/s/ David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

/s/ Don Young
Member of Congress

/s/ Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

/s/ Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

/s/ Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress

/s/ Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

/s/ William R. Keating
Member of Congress

/s/ Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

/s/ Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

/s/ Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress

/s/ Charlie Crist
Member of Congress

/s/ Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen
Member of Congress

/s/ Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

/s/ Denny Heck
Member of Congress

/s/ Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

/s/ Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

/s/ Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

/s/ Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

/s/ Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

/s/ Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

/s/ Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress

/s/ Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

/s/ Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Scalise
Member of Congress

/s/ Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

/s/ Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress

/s/ Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress

cc: Russell T. Vought, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget