

**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.

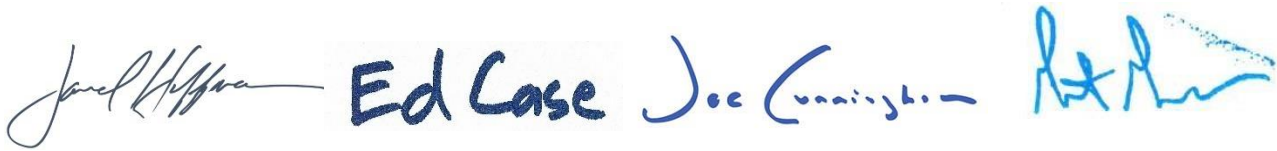
U.S. commercial and recreational fisheries generate over \$200 billion in sales and 1.7 million jobs, but due to the ongoing public health crisis, fisheries dependent businesses and communities are facing extreme economic hardship from loss of markets. These impacts are felt throughout the industry - 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