

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 18, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

CC: The Honorable Gina Raimondo  
Secretary of Commerce

Dear Mr. President:

A thriving Chinook salmon fishery is crucial for California's coastal economy and culture. Chinook salmon populations have fallen far below historic levels, and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) took the unfortunate but necessary step of recommending a full closure of California's commercial and recreational 2024 ocean salmon fisheries. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is anticipated to enforce this recommendation in May 2024. The closure of this vital fishery will have far-reaching consequences for commercial, recreational, and charter fishers, tribes, businesses, restaurants, and families who depend upon a healthy salmon fishery for subsistence. In response to this recommendation, on April 11, Acting Governor Kounalakis, on behalf of Governor Gavin Newsom, submitted a request to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo to declare a fishery disaster for the 2024 Sacramento River Fall Chinook (SRFC) and Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC) salmon fisheries. We appreciate the Governor's support and humbly ask that your administration move swiftly to declare a federal fishery disaster.

The chinook salmon fishery has a profound economic value, impacting not only fish sales but also related businesses, including restaurants, bait and tackle shops, charter fishing guides, campgrounds, and more. For the second consecutive year, our communities will be hurting from this lack of revenue, and the subsistence users of the fishery will need assistance to feed their families. A federal fishery disaster declaration will not replace this essential cultural resource, but disaster dollars will provide some relief to affected businesses and families.

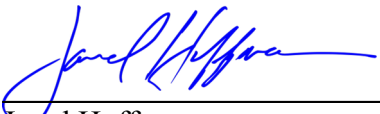
For Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations, Congress was able to secure an additional \$300 million for fishery disaster declarations, and we ask that a portion of these funds go toward affected Californians. Additionally, Congress authorized bipartisan fishery disaster relief language based on Congressman Jared Huffman and Senator Roger Wicker's Fishery Resource Disasters Improvement Act. This language has streamlined the process for declaring a federal fishery disaster and helps to quickly provide relief to affected communities. It also extends eligibility for

federal fishery disaster funds not only to commercial fisheries but also to charter fishing businesses and impacted tribes, all of which will be sorely in need due to this salmon closure.

The unprecedented back-to-back closures of the entire California salmon fishery is a devastating crisis. It remains unclear how long the salmon fishery will need to be closed, and we know there is much work ahead of us. The long-term solutions will include improving our drought resiliency, restoring salmon habitat, and of course, addressing the climate crisis. We look forward to continuing our work with your administration on these goals. However, Californians who depend on the fishery, and are still trying to recover from last season's closure, have no time to wait for these long-term objectives to be achieved. A federal fishery disaster declaration will help our commercial and charter fisheries, tribes, and communities survive the difficult times ahead.

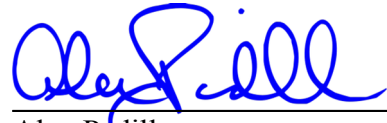
Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



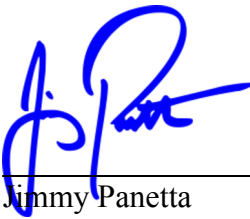
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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Alex Padilla  
Chair, Subcommittee on  
Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife



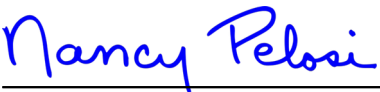
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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Raphael Butler  
United States Senator



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Nancy Pelosi  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



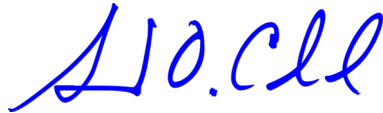
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Josh Harder  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



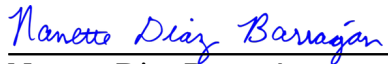
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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress