

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 28, 2013

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Pritzker:

We write to congratulate you on your confirmation as Secretary of the Department of Commerce and to offer our services as you enter this new role. Your commitment to civic engagement and transparency brings great promise and potential to the future of this Department.

As Secretary, we understand that you must now become well-versed on a wide array of very specific issues, and so we respectfully request a meeting with you in the coming weeks to bring you up to speed on our shared priorities as you begin your tenure, specifically relating to the role of the Department in overseeing management of Massachusetts' fishing industry.

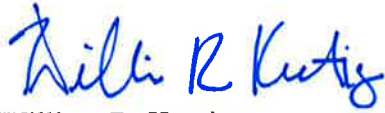
As you may know, the Department issued an unprecedented economic disaster declaration for the Northeast Multispecies (groundfish) fishery in September 2012 in advance of the 2013 fishing year. This declaration followed repeated requests for assistance from members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation, Governor Deval Patrick, State Representatives and Senators, and countless members of the fishing industry. Effective May 1, New England's fishermen have been subjected to such drastic cuts in allowable catch for critical groundfish stocks for the 2013 fishing season that many of them will likely lose their principle source of income.

The Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act and the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act authorize funding for fishery disaster relief provided that Congress appropriate the necessary funds. To date, Congress has failed to act and appropriate adequate funding despite numerous attempts by Massachusetts' representation in Congress. The true economic and socioeconomic impact of fisheries disasters on coastal communities is incalculable, and we remain committed to allocating emergency funding for the industry. We are also focused on the future reauthorization of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act and the implementation of necessary reforms, including cooperative research between the Agency and the industry and more frequent assessments of all managed stocks.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide you with a more adequate background on these issues of

deep concern to our districts. Once again, congratulations on your confirmation as Secretary, and we look forward to hearing from you.

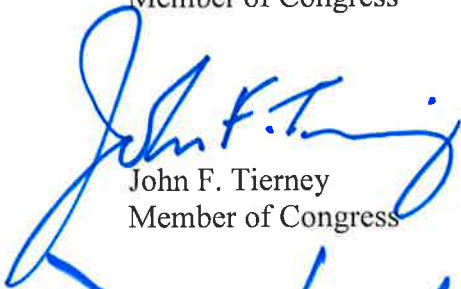
Sincerely,



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress



John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress