

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 16, 2010

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

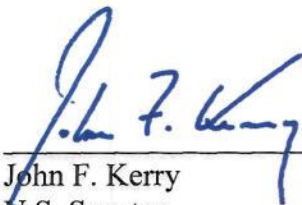
Dear Secretary Locke:

Thank you again for your appointment of the Honorable Charles B. Swartwood III as Special Master to review the enforcement cases the Inspector General identified as problematic in the most recent report. As you are aware, the Inspector General's report found troubling discrepancies in enforcement, fines and penalties by the office of Law Enforcement and the Office of General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation.

It has come to our attention that several of the respondents in the problematic cases have requested and been denied stays of their penalties while the Special Master conducts his review. We are grateful that your office has taken a leadership role on this issue, but in the interest of fairness we respectfully request that immediate action be taken to reverse this decision and stay the penalties until the Special Master has completed his review and presented his recommendations.

Thank you for your continued attention and commitment to rapidly implementing reforms to address the various issues facing the fishery.

Sincerely,



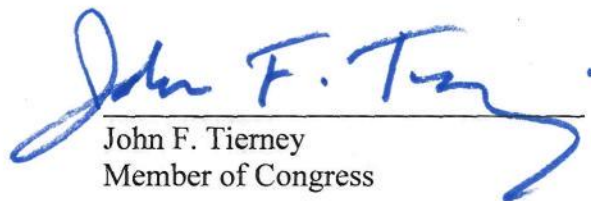
John F. Kerry
U.S. Senator



Scott P. Brown
U.S. Senator



Barney Frank
Member of Congress



John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



William Delahunt
Member of Congress