

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

March 15, 2011

Dear Senators Kerry, Brown, Snowe, Collins, Whitehouse, Reed, Burr, Hagan, Menendez, Lautenberg, Schumer and Gillibrand,

I am writing to each of the Senators from states which share common concerns about fishing regulation along the East Coast. On a bipartisan and bicameral basis, we have worked together in the past with good results, and I am writing today in the hope that we can take advantage of an important opportunity to further that work.

The appointment by President Obama of a Secretary of Commerce to replace Secretary Locke gives the Members of the Senate the very important opportunity to establish some clear understandings about policy regarding fishing regulation. Many of us representing fishing areas have been dissatisfied to a considerable degree with some of the policies that have applied to East Coast fisheries, and many of us have been dissatisfied with the failure of the Secretary of Commerce to exercise his supervisory authority over NOAA and respond to the legitimate concerns of the people we represent.

I am therefore writing to the Senators with whom I have spoken, and who represent states where I have worked with Members of the House, to urge you to convene a meeting to put together a set of requests that can be made to the nominee for this position prior to the confirmation process. Having been frustrated at the failure of the current Secretary of Commerce to respond as I believe he should have to our concerns, I believe as I am sure you do that it is important that we take full advantage of this opportunity with the appointment of a new Secretary to get some matters clearly understood to the benefit of the important economic interests we represent.

Putting together this set of concerns is something that I think should be done on a bicameral basis, but because you and your colleagues are the ones who get to vote on confirmation, this is an effort that obviously will work best if it is organized in the Senate. I will be following up this letter with phone conversations and I look forward to our being able to work together to use the influence you and your colleagues will have over this confirmation process to do what we can to improve the quality of fishing regulation.

  
BARNEY FRANK