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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3303**

December 16, 2011

The Honorable Doc Hastings  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hastings:

Thank you again for holding the December 1<sup>st</sup> hearing on several fisheries reform bills, including my bill H.R. 2753, The Fishery Management Transparency and Accountability Act. On behalf of the Eastern North Carolina fishermen I am privileged to represent, we are very grateful for your attention to these critical issues.

I can't tell you how reassuring it was to hear you lay out your commitment to fixing the problems that plague America's fisheries management. As I stated in my testimony, every fisherman I talk to believes there are major problems with the way our fisheries are managed. Many of the bills examined at the December 1<sup>st</sup> hearing would – if passed – go a long way toward fixing those problems.

As you develop the Committee's schedule for 2012, I respectfully request and strongly encourage you to move these fisheries reform bills – including H.R. 2753 – through the Committee and to the House floor as soon as possible. Everyone acknowledges that this country needs jobs, and that's exactly what these bills are about. Fishermen in this country are hurting badly. They can't afford to wait years for relief; they need it now.

As always, thank you for your friendship and your leadership of the Committee.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress

*Thank you!*  
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