

JON RUNYAN
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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ASSISTANCE
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH



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TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WILDLIFE,
OCEANS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3003

November 15, 2012

The Honorable Rebecca Blank
Acting Secretary of Commerce
US Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230-0002

Dear Acting Secretary Blank,

We write you today in support of Governor Christie's request to give New Jersey a federal fisheries resources disaster declaration, and ask that you issue this declaration as quickly as possible so that New Jersey's fishermen and coastal communities can begin to rebuild. As you are aware, Hurricane Sandy has delivered unprecedented damage to New Jersey's fishing industry and coastal infrastructure, and the recovery may take years.

New Jersey has one of the strongest commercial and recreational fishing industries on the entire eastern seaboard, and is one of the major drivers of New Jersey's economy, especially in coastal communities. The fishing industry has a wide range of beneficiaries including not only fishermen, but processors, boat builders, bait and tackle shops, distributors, retailers, and increased tourist revenue due to our thriving recreational sector. In 2011, the industry landed 175 million pounds of seafood generating over \$1.3 billion in revenue and supporting more than 40,000 jobs.

It is clear to all that Hurricane Sandy devastated New Jersey and hit coastal areas particularly hard. New Jersey's fishing infrastructure is located in these hardest hit areas and sustained significant damage. Federal resources will be needed to help repair the damages, and redevelop our coastal communities.

We again urge you to quickly approve New Jersey's federal fisheries resources disaster request so that we can begin to rebuild this vital industry. Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Sincerely,

Jon Runyan
Member of Congress

Sincerely,

Chris Smith
Member of Congress

Sincerely,

Frank LoBiondo
Member of Congress

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Sincerely,

Bill Pascrell Jr

Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress