



January 23, 2017

The Honorable Mike Pence
Vice President of the United States of America
C/o Trump-Pence Transition Team
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce Nominee
C/o Trump-Pence Transition Team
Washington, D.C.

**Re: Commerce Department Appointee Recommendation;
Mr. Chris Oliver for Assistant Administrator NOAA Fisheries.**

Dear Mr. Vice President and Mr. Ross:

Pacific Seafood is a family owned company with over 40 business operations and over 3,000 team members located in 14 states. Pacific produces thousands of sustainable seafood items caught in wild-harvest fisheries on the west coast and Alaska, and grown in Pacific's US-based aquaculture facilities. The west coast and Alaska fisheries in the United States are rated in the top four best managed fisheries in the world. Pacific's aquaculture facilities follow strict environmental and habitat standards that are more stringent than any other nations. We export seafood to 26 countries. Good harvest management, conservation protections, and the general well-being of our fisheries resources are key to our long-term investment, growth, and employee opportunities. We are a major job creator in many small coastal communities and we are optimistic that with some regulatory retooling at NOAA Fisheries we could provide many new jobs and an improved economic future for our coastal communities and our nation.

Generating the best results in a business or a governmental agency requires a capable leader at the helm. For this reason we strongly advocate that Mr. Chris Oliver is the best candidate for the position of Assistant Administrator of NOAA Fisheries. We are a co-author of a national coalition letter supporting Mr. Oliver for this position. There are over 50 different signatories on that letter from numerous states, whose businesses support tens of thousands of American jobs. In the right business climate, the potential to grow these businesses and add domestic seafood jobs, while reclaiming the U.S. seafood industry's huge loss of market to imported seafood¹ is magnitudes above where it exists today.

¹ Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Memorandum to Transition Team page 2

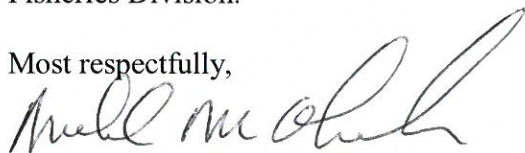
http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafac/meetings/2016_12/final_recommendations_transmittal_12.23.16_final.pdf

Mr. Oliver has spent almost 30 years in practical application of the mandates and guidelines in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and as expressed in the National Standards.² Under Mr. Oliver's leadership and policy guidance in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Alaska now has the most productive and sustainable fishery on the planet, under the best managed system anywhere—a system that balances conservation of our nation's natural resources, and the health of our ecosystems, with the requirement to achieve the best practicable optimum yield and highest net economic benefit.

With President Trump's high emphasis on growing America's domestic production capabilities, what better place to begin than unfettering the U.S. seafood industry from some of the archaic and inflexible regulations that do nothing for MSA conservation objectives, and strangle the U.S industry from achieving the economic goals prescribed in the National Standards? This is a tightrope act that Mr. Oliver has the credentials, fortitude and experience to handle. Our nation has a great opportunity to reap the benefits of its carefully managed fisheries resources but our fishery management regulations still remain distant from creating a business climate equal to that of our environmental and conservation protections.

Mr. Oliver can lead the U.S. in an effort to bring the balance back to our nation's fisheries as stipulated in MSA and in our National Standards. Our nation needs Mr. Oliver to head our NOAA Fisheries Division.

Most respectfully,



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General Counsel and Director of Government Affairs

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CEO

² National Standard Guidelines; http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/sfa/laws_policies/national_standards/