



November 27, 2017

The Honorable John Thune, Chairman
The Honorable Bill Nelson, Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Thune, Nelson and Members of the Committee,

We the undersigned fishing companies, organizations, and vessels are writing in support of Barry Myers' confirmation as the next NOAA Administrator and Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

As CEO of AccuWeather, Mr. Myers has a proven record of success, working alongside scientists. He is a recipient of the prominent American Meteorological Society's Leadership award and is an AMS fellow. Mr. Myers served on the Environmental Information Services Working Group of NOAA's Science Advisory Board for 5 different heads of NOAA's National Weather Service, under presidents of both parties.

NOAA employs some of the nation's best scientists, but it has been plagued with ongoing mismanagement, as documented in the press, including:

- Abuses of power and misuse of funds at NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement that led to the appointment of a Special Master to review the case, the return of collected fines, and the demotion and reassignment of NOAA employees.
- Issues associated with the NOAA's Bigelow, a NOAA research vessel. Over the past few years the vessel has missed several critical survey trips due to a range of issues including incorrect paint and foreign engines so complicated that engineers had to be flown in from Europe to repair them.
- NOAA has been criticized for years over data accuracy and credibility in regards to collection, management and use of fisheries data that is used for management of fisheries, commercial, recreational, cultural and scientific purposes.
- The National Weather Service is reported to be on the "brink of failure" due to budget and hiring issues left unresolved for the past 5 years.

Several experts in the field have publically articulated the need for better management at the agency:

“No NOAA administrator has been willing to make the substantial, but necessary, changes. Is it possible that an outsider from the private sector might consider a fresh approach?”

-Cliff Mass, Atmospheric scientist, University of Washington

“I think Barry would bring very practical, pragmatic expertise and management acumen to NOAA.”

-David Titley, Former NOAA COO under President Obama; Professor of Meteorology, Penn State University

While science remains one of the most vital elements of NOAA, new leadership with strong proven managerial experience is needed to right the ship after years of mismanagement. For these reasons, I strongly support the nomination of Barry Myers as NOAA Administrator and Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and ask you to vote to confirm his nomination.

Thank you for considering this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Agger
Owner, Agger Fish Corp
Board Member, Monkfish Defense Fund
Brooklyn, NY

Warren Alexander, President
Atlantic Shellfish, Inc.
Cape May, NJ

Bob Blais, Controller
Seatrade International
New Bedford, MA

Scott Bode, COO
Pier Fish Co.
New Bedford, MA

Bonnie Brady, Executive Director
Long Island Commercial Fishing
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Jim Cook, Vice President
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Don Cross, Owner
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Blue Harvest Fisheries
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Newport News, VA

Dewey Destin, Owner
Dewey Destin's Seafood Restaurants
Destin, FL

Greg DiDomenico, Executive Director
Garden State Seafood Association
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Wayne Dunbar
Pamlico County Fishermen's Association
Pamlico, NC

Roy Enoksen, President
Ronald Enoksen, Vice President
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Nordic Fisheries, Inc.
New Bedford, MA

AJ Erskine, Owner
Mid-Atlantic Bait
Lottsburg, VA

Brent Fulcher, Owner
Fulcher Trawling
New Bern, NC

Chris Fulcher, President
Fulcher's Point Pride Seafood, *Oriental, NC*
Bay City Crab Company, *Aurora, NC*
Fulcher's Seafood, *Oriental, NC*
Diamond Shoal Seafood, *Hatteras, NC*
Crystal Seas Seafood, *Bayboro, NC*
Shellfish Express, *Oriental, NC*

Joe Gilbert, Owner
Empire Fisheries
Empire Scallop
Invictus Fisheries
Milford, CT

Mike Goto, Auction Manager
United Fishing Agency
Honolulu, HI

Jim Gutowski, President
Fisheries Survival Fund
Members in CT, MA, ME, NC, NY, VA

Wayne Heikkila, Executive Director
Western Fishboat Owners Association
American Fishermen's Research
Foundation
Astoria, OR
Members in AK, CA, HI, OR, WA

Gary Jarvis
Executive Director, Destin Charter Boat
Association
Owner, JackaCudas Seafood & Sushi,
Brotulas Seafood & Steamer, Cuvee'
Kitchen & Bar, Sunset Bay Café
Destin, FL

Bob Jones, Executive Director
Southeastern Fisheries Association
Tallahassee, FL

Jim Kendall, Executive Director
New Bedford Seafood Consulting
New Bedford, MA

David Krebs, President
Ariel Seafoods
Destin, FL

Jim Lovgren, Board Member
Fisherman's Dock Co-Op
Point Pleasant, NJ

Tim Malley, Director
Blue Water Fishermen's Association
Barneгат Light, NJ

Heather Mann, Director
Midwater Trawlers Cooperative
Newport, OR

Sean Martin, President
Hawaii Longline Association
Honolulu, HI

Ken Melanson, Chairman & CEO
Northern Wind
New Bedford, MA

Cameron Miele, CEO
Kathryn Marie Scalloping Co., LLC
Hunter Scalloping Co., LLC
New Bedford, MA

Ed Mullis, General Manager
B&C Seafood, Inc.
Newport News, VA

Robert Nagle, Vice President
John Nagle Co.
Boston, MA

Robert Newberry, Chairman
Delmarva Fisheries Association
Chestertown, MD
Members in MD, VA

Gerry O'Neill, Owner
Cape Seafood
Western Sea Fishing
Gloucester, MA

Dan Occipinti, General Counsel
Pacific Seafood
Clackamas, OR

Erik Orman, President
Tempest Fisheries
New Bedford, MA

Ernie Panacek, General Manager
Viking Village
Barneгат Light, NJ

Diane Pleschner-Steele, Executive
Director
California Wetfish Producers Association
Monterey, CA

William Polumbo, President
Palombo Fishing Corp., *Newport, RI*
International Marine Industries, *Newport, RI*
Boston Wholesale Lobster Corp., *Lynn, MA*

Terry Pratt, President
Albemarle Fishermen's Association
Albemarle, NC

Laura Foley Ramsden, Owner
Foley Fish
Boston, MA

Jeff Reichle, Chairman
Lunds Fisheries, Inc.
Cape May, NJ
Affiliated companies:
Sun Coast Calamari, Inc., *Oxnard, CA*
Port Hueneme Ice, LLC, *Port Hueneme, CA*
Cape May Ice, Inc., *Cape May, NJ*
Cape Clam, Inc., *Cape May, NJ*
Cape Trawlers, Inc., *Cape May, NJ*
Cumberland Freezers, LLC, *Bridgeton, NJ*

Eric Reid, General Manager
Seafreeze, Ltd.
North Kingstown, RI

Rob Ross, Executive Director
California Fisheries and Seafood Institute
Sacramento, CA

Glenn Skinner, Executive Director
North Carolina Fisheries Association
Morehead City, NC

Lori Steele, Executive Director
West Coast Seafood Processors
Association
Portland, OR
Members in CA, OR, WA

John Williams, President
Atlantic Red Crab Co.
New Bedford, MA

Vessels

F/V Virginia Wave
F/V Virginia Queen
F/V Virginia Dare
F/V Miss Crockett
F/V Virginia Clipper
F/V Ashley Gail

F/V Christina
F/V Alexa
F/V Kathy Ann
F/V Lady Deborah
F/V Chaz's Toy
F/V Christina Ann
F/V Papa's Girl
F/V Chasity Brooke
F/V Perseverance
F/V Sea Angles
F/V Gaston Bell
F/V Annie Elizabeth
F/V Nancy Elizabeth

F/V Elise G
F/V Charisma
F/V Gannet
F/V Golden Nuggett
F/V Miss Madeline
F/V Mt. Vernon
F/V Permits
F/V Scombrus One
F/V Shakari
F/V Squid Light
F/V Squid Light Too
F/V Western Explorer