

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

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

We are writing to you today to request that additional direct relief be included in Phase 3 or any future COVID-19 relief package for America's domestic fisheries. In particular, we are asking that \$1.5 billion dollars in direct aid be made available to all participants in the seafood industry including, but not limited to, domestic harvesters, processors, distributors, and aquaculture businesses across the country.

Domestic fisheries in the United States support more than 1.2 million jobs and generate \$64 billion dollars of economic activity annually. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak fisheries in the United States are facing an unprecedented breakdown in the market for their products. Americans overwhelmingly purchase domestic seafood products, nearly 70 percent, at restaurant and hospitality establishments. In nearly every state, steps taken by government and citizens to prevent the transmission of the disease has focused on the closure of many of these establishments. This has left the American seafood industry unable to find a market for their products a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has also eliminated any avenue exports. The situation within American Fisheries is dire, and the harm being inflicted will undermine the long-term health of a sustainable industry.

Additionally, we urge the federal government consider any production support measures that may become available for fisheries. Government agencies, such as the Department of Defense, purchase significant volumes of agricultural goods on a monthly basis. As such, we request that the federal government use its purchasing power now to support sustainable fisheries across the nation by altering its purchasing profile to include increased amounts of sustainably harvested domestic seafood.

Because of these unprecedented conditions, we ask that you include \$1.5 billion dollars in direct aid to support the United States fisheries industry. Providing this aid will ensure that millions of Americans who depend of the seafood industry remain employed and that fisheries, a sustainable food industry, remains viable when the COVID-19 pandemic has abated. I thank you

for your attention to this matter, if you have any questions about this matter please contact  
Natasha Silva from Congressman Keating's office at [Natasha.silva@mail.house.gov](mailto:Natasha.silva@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William R. Keating". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "K".

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy III  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress