

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2007

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-218 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John P. Murtha
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee
on Defense
H-149 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, State Appropriations
Subcommittee
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Obey, Murtha and Mollohan:

As the House Appropriations committee starts deliberations on the emergency supplemental, we respectfully request that you include \$60.4 million for disaster relief for commercial salmon fishermen along the coasts of California and Oregon. This disaster aid is critical to commercial salmon fishermen, tribes and related businesses affected by the commercial fishery failure of 2006 – **the largest commercial salmon fishery disaster in U.S. history.**

Last year, the Department of Commerce all but eliminated the commercial salmon fishing season for more than 1,000 commercial salmon fishermen in California and Oregon due to poor salmon returns along the Klamath River. Early salmon return data indicate that fishing will likely remain closed for the 2007 season, further compounding the economic impact to our fishing communities. The impact upon the coastal areas dependent upon this industry has been devastating. The Secretary of Commerce declared a commercial fishery failure on August 10, 2006 (enclosure). After the Secretary issued his declaration, he personally made calls to House and Senate Appropriations Committee chairmen. Unfortunately, 109th Congress was unable to appropriate funds before adjournment.

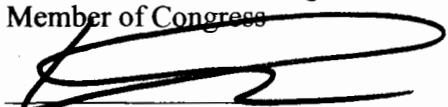
Issuing these disaster funds is a top priority for our constituents and is supported by the governors of Washington, Oregon and California, our county boards of supervisors, the Klamath Water Users Association and the California Chamber of Commerce. We are also steadfastly committed to instituting comprehensive legislation that will restore the Klamath River basin so commercial salmon fishermen, tribes, farmers and related businesses do not have to suffer these types of disasters again.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We stand ready to work with you and your committee to ensure that this disaster aid is included in the emergency supplemental.

Sincerely,



MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress


DAVID WU
Member of Congress

PETER DeFAZIO
Member of Congress


DARLENE HOOLEY
Member of Congress



LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress



LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress



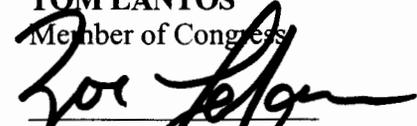
GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress



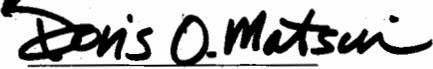
ANNA ESHOO
Member of Congress



TOM LANTOS
Member of Congress



ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress

Enclosures