

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 4, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
S-221 Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
S-208 Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-204 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Republican Leader
H-107 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

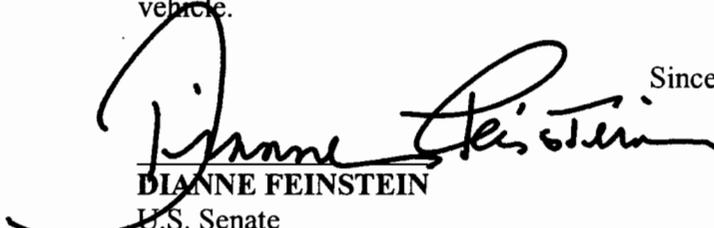
Dear Senate Majority Leader Reid, Senate Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Republican Leader Boehner:

We request your assistance as quickly as possible in appropriating \$60.4 million in disaster aid 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. Despite the Secretary of Commerce declaring a commercial fishery failure on August 10, 2006 and personally making calls to House and Senate Appropriations Committee chairmen, the 109th Congress was unable to appropriate funds before adjournment.

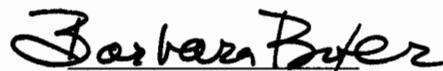
Issuing these disaster funds is a top priority for our constituents and is supported by the governors of Washington, Oregon and California, our county boards of supervisors, the Klamath Water Users Association and the California Chamber of Commerce. We are also steadfastly committed to instituting comprehensive 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.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to get these necessary disaster funds appropriated as quickly as possible through a Continuing Resolution, or any other legislative vehicle.

Sincerely,


DIANNE FEINSTEIN
U.S. Senate


RON WYDEN
U.S. Senate

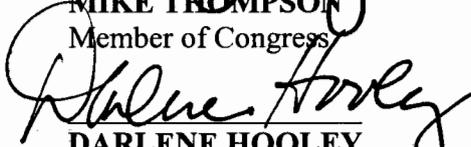

BARBARA BOXER
U.S. Senate


GORDON H. SMITH
U.S. Senate

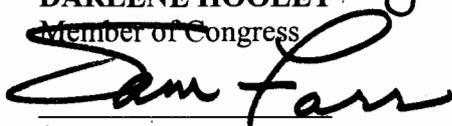
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Republican Leader Boehner
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MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress



DARLENE HOOLEY
Member of Congress



SAM FARR
Member of Congress



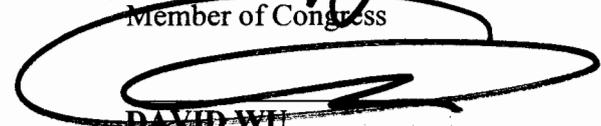
LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress



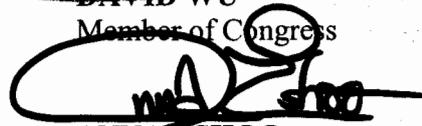
LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress



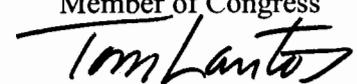
PETER DeFAZIO
Member of Congress



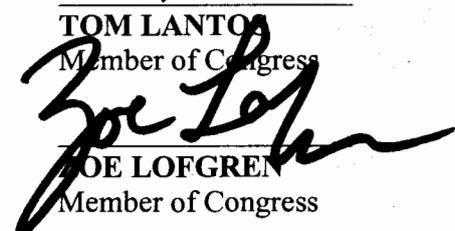
DAVID WU
Member of Congress



ANNA ESHOO
Member of Congress



TOM LANTOS
Member of Congress



JOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress

Cc: Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert C. Byrd
Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Thad Cochran
House Appropriations Committee Chairman David R. Obey
House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Jerry Lewis

Enclosures