

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232 Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

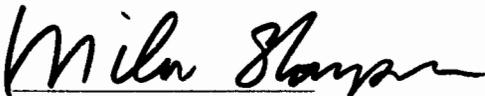
As the House Appropriations committee starts deliberations on the emergency supplemental, we respectfully request that you ask House Appropriations committee to include \$60.4 million for disaster relief for commercial salmon fishermen along the coasts of California and Oregon. This disaster aid is critical 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. 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.

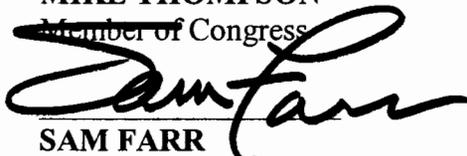
Issuing these disaster funds is a top priority for our constituents and is supported by the governors of Washington, Oregon and California, our county boards of supervisors, the Klamath Water Users Association and the California Chamber of Commerce. We are also steadfastly committed to instituting comprehensive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

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

Sincerely,



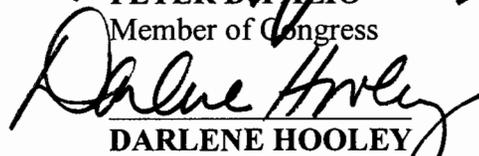
MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress



SAM FARR
Member of Congress



PETER DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



DARLENE HOOLEY
Member of Congress

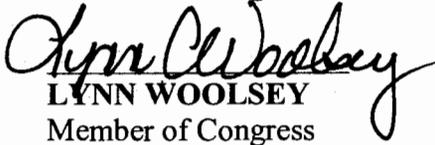
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DAVID WU
Member of Congress



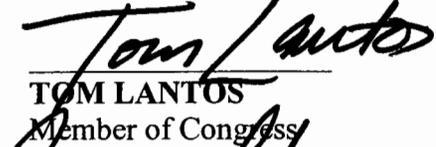
LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress



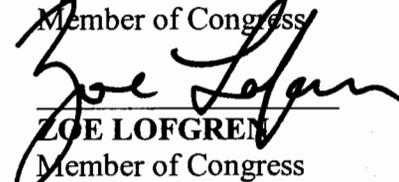
LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress



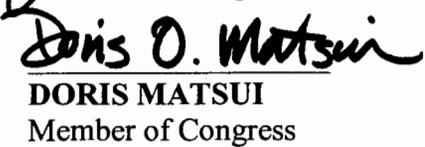
ANNA ESHOO
Member of Congress



TOM LANTOS
Member of Congress



ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress

Cc: House Appropriations Committee Chairman David R. Obey
House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Jerry Lewis
House Appropriations Commerce, Justice State Subcommittee Chairman Alan B. Mollohan
House Appropriations Commerce, Justice State Subcommittee Ranking Member Rodney P. Frelinghuysen

Enclosures