

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 18, 2008

The Honorable Carlos M. Gutierrez
Secretary
Department of Commerce
140 I Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Gutierrez:

The Pacific Marine Fisheries Council (PMFC) has made their historic formal recommendations on the 2008 season of the West Coast salmon for the single largest salmon fishery closure ever. We request you immediately declare a "fishery failure" for the region.

The fall Chinook run on the Sacramento River is the driver for salmon fisheries off of the West Coast. While their returns have historically supported a catch of more than 800,000 Chinook, this year's class of returning adults is projected to fall to below 60,000 fish. This return, a record breaking low, has prompted the PMFC to take the drastic step of recommending a near total closure of the commercial and recreational fisheries.

The West Coast salmon fisheries infuse our state economies with millions of dollars. Clearly, that revenue is lost this year and the effects of this economic loss will reverberate through our economies for years to come.

We are working closely with our Governors to determine the full extent of the economic emergency in our states but without your emergency declaration our work is stymied. We ask that you also work with the Governors from the affected states to assess the impacts and declare a "fishery failure" pursuant to your authority under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. This declaration will provide the official authorization needed for Congress to provide disaster assistance for affected communities.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and hope to work closely with you in the coming months to ensure an appropriate federal response to this devastating closure.

Sincerely,



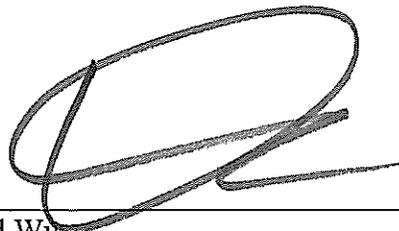
Darlene Hooley
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



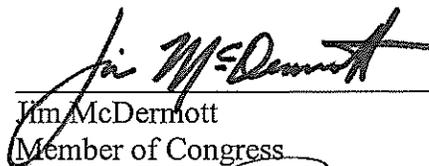
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



David Wu
Member of Congress



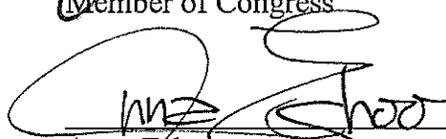
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



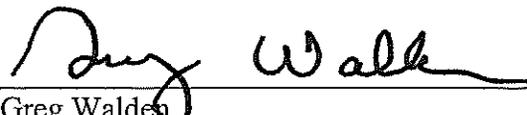
Norman Dicks
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Anna Eshoo
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