

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 29, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

On May 24, California Governor Jerry Brown and Oregon Governor Kate Brown requested that you declare a regional salmon fishery disaster under section 315 of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. This declaration will allow our communities to receive desperately-needed aid. We write in support of the Governors' requests for this disaster declaration, and ask that you work with the states to quickly complete the disaster review process.

Severe restrictions of the salmon fishing season along large stretches of coastal Northern California and Southern Oregon are already causing great economic hardship in California and Oregon. In particular, salmon fishing on the Klamath River has been completely closed off after the Pacific Fishery Management Council predicted the lowest return of spawning salmon on record. The Governors of California and Oregon estimate that the economic impacts from the commercial closures to date are worth at least \$3.8 and \$2.7 million respectively. These do not include losses from other sectors of the fishing industry, such as processors and distributors.


These drastic reductions are devastating for California and Oregon fishing communities, which have already been impacted by last year's Dungeness crab and Klamath salmon fishery disasters. The economic damage has been clearly evident in decline in salmon landing values - last year, California landing values were less than 58% of average, and Oregon's were reduced by 41%.


While we remain hopeful that the end of California's five-year drought will temporarily increase salmon harvests in the future, our fishermen and coastal communities have already missed out on the most lucrative sales of the year. Many of our fishermen will not be able to catch enough salmon this year to make ends meet, and the coastal communities that rely on this critical source of revenue will suffer irreversible social and economic harm.

Given the severe hardship our constituents are currently experiencing, we urge you to review the Governors' requests as expeditiously as possible. Thank you for your consideration.


Sincerely,


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

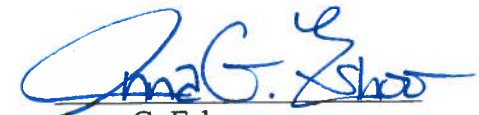

Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

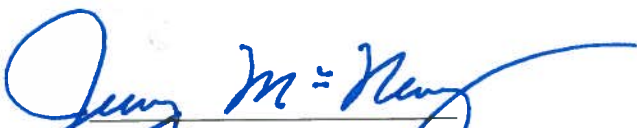

Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress

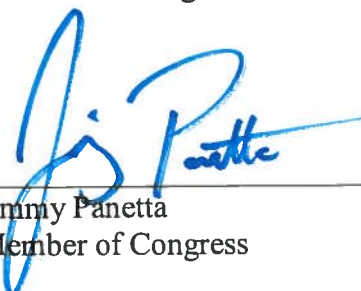

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