

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2008

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-218, 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 and Mollohan:

The imminent closure of the commercial and recreational salmon seasons in California, Oregon and Washington will seriously exacerbate the economic crisis currently facing these industries in our districts. We therefore seek your assistance in providing these states with much-needed emergency disaster funding.

On April 10th 2008, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) recommended closing both the commercial and recreational fishing seasons of salmon for California and Oregon. They recommended closing the season because Chinook salmon returning to the Sacramento River system – considered the “driver” of wild salmon stocks in the continental U.S. – have reached historic lows. In 2006, an estimated 800,000 Chinook salmon returned to the Sacramento River system; but this year, PFMC estimates that less than 90,000 salmon will return. In Washington, the closures are because populations of Columbia River Chinook and Coho are near record-low levels. **These are the largest closures ever recommended by any U.S. Fishery Council.**

The situation is so dire that the Governors of California, Oregon and Washington have compiled economic impact estimates on the closure. We have provided this information for your review. Cumulatively, the Governors estimate that this closure will cost **\$290 million.**

We respectfully request your assistance in providing emergency disaster funding for these communities in one of the upcoming funding bills.

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,



MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress



NORMAN D. DICKS
Member of Congress



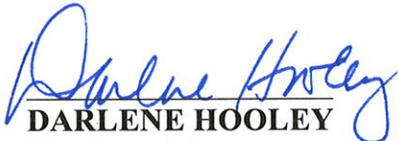
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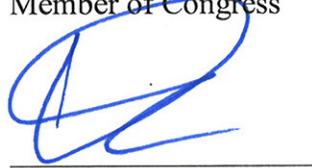

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Member of Congress



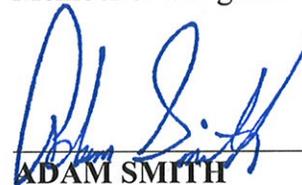
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Member of Congress



HOWARD L. BERMAN
Member of Congress



HENRY WAXMAN
Member of Congress



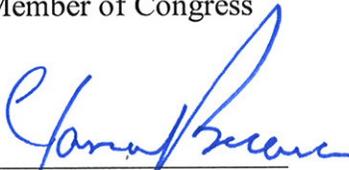
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