

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 17, 2014

Ambassador Michael Froman
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador:

As you continue negotiations on the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement, we are writing to express our concern with the agreement's potential impact on Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) Act revenue. Since it became law nearly 70 years ago, the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act has authorized allocation of 30 percent of duties on imported fish products toward competitively-awarded research and development projects that benefit U.S. fisheries. These funds have been used to help improve fishing stocks and the marine environment, reduce bycatch, and help fishing communities in every coastal region of this country.

In 2012, Saltonstall-Kennedy revenue exceeded \$130 million. Nearly \$10 million, or 7.33 percent, of that amount came from duties on fish products from TPP nations, and the bulk of that came from Vietnam, Japan and Malaysia. Should the TPP agreement substantially lower or eliminate duties on fish products from TPP countries, the impact on S-K revenue would be significant. That impact could potentially be up to 4 times worse if other major Southeast Asian fish exporters like Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines ultimately join the TPP, as each of those countries has expressed interest in doing.

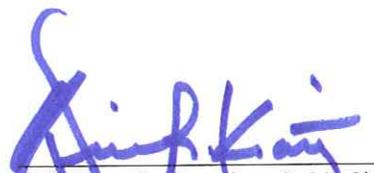
Given the importance of Saltonstall-Kennedy funding to American fisheries, fishing communities and fisheries management, we urge you keep these potential impacts in mind at the negotiating table. We also respectfully request that you provide us with a detailed estimate of the impact of the signed TPP agreement on S-K revenue prior to sending the implementing language to Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

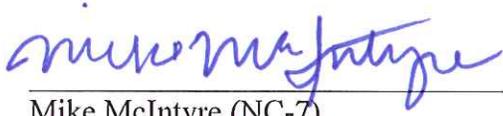
Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones (NC-3)



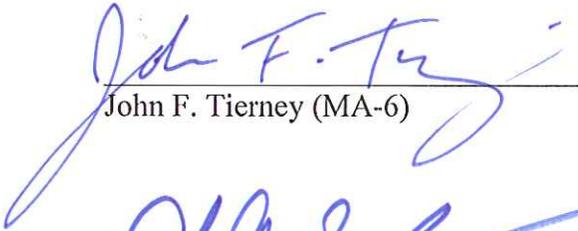
William R. Keating (MA-9)



Mike McIntyre (NC-7)



Carol Shea-Porter (NH-1)



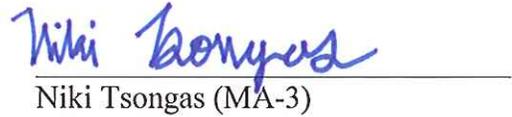
John F. Tierney (MA-6)



Peter A. Defazio (OR-4)



Chellie Pingree (ME-1)



Niki Tsongas (MA-3)



Lois Capps (CA-24)