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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Appropriations**  
**Washington, DC 20515-6015**

April 8, 2014

WILLIAM E. SMITH  
CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR  
TELEPHONE:  
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Walter Jones  
Member of Congress  
3<sup>rd</sup> District of North Carolina  
1105-C Corporate Drive  
Greenville, NC 27858

Dear Walter,

*Walter*

You and I have discussed on several occasions your concerns with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) proposal in its fiscal year 2015 budget to close one laboratory facility within its Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research, located in Beaufort, North Carolina.

This Beaufort, North Carolina laboratory is responsible in part for cooperative management and research programs for Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coast menhaden. As you know, menhaden is one of the few managed fisheries that is healthy, in part due to the 49-year data collection efforts and cooperative management activities between the lab, fishery managers, and the commercial fishing industry. I share your concerns that disbanding this lab will be detrimental to maintaining the effective research programs and community interactions that staff at this lab have developed.

I look forward to continuing to work with you in the coming months to maintain the effective science program at the Beaufort lab.

Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature of Frank R. Wolf]*

Frank R. Wolf  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
and Related Agencies

*BEST WISHES*