

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 16, 2013

Chairman Harold Rogers  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Nita Lowey  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Frank R. Wolf  
House Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
H-309, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Chaka Fattah  
House Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
H-309, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Wolf, and Ranking Member Fattah:

We are writing to request that no funding be included in the FY2014 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill for the development, approval, or implementation of **new** limited access privilege programs – also known as “catch shares” – for fisheries under the jurisdiction of the New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, or Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils.

As you know, the House Committee on Natural Resources – which has legislative oversight of catch share programs – is currently working to reauthorize the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the law that governs America’s marine fisheries. We believe that the concerns of our local fishermen, both commercial and recreational, are best addressed by allowing the committee to complete its reauthorization before funding for any **new** catch share programs is considered.

The House made its position on this issue clear twice already, most recently when it approved the Southerland-Grimm Amendment to the FY2013 CJS Appropriations Act by a bipartisan vote of 220-191 (Roll Call Vote #223). This amendment prohibited funding in the bill from being used for the implementation of **new** catch share programs in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Coast regions.

Congress has an obligation to hear the concerns of our fishermen before **new** catch share programs are implemented. Jobs numbers indicate that commercial sector fishing jobs are reduced in fisheries that implement catch share programs. For Atlantic and Gulf Coast

fishermen already struggling through difficult economic challenges, any additional job losses could be devastating to the industry. Further economic injury can be avoided, however, by prohibiting the development and implementation of new catch share programs until we ensure the development of better scientific research, stock assessments, recreational surveys, as well as economic impact statements from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). All of these tools are necessary to accurately measure the need for – and true impact of – new catch share programs on our fisheries and coastal communities.

Many of our commercial and recreational fishermen believe they did not have the opportunity to make their voices heard before the implementation of new catch shares in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Now, however, we have opportunity to ensure the concerns of our fishermen are heard, and that can only happen by allowing the House Committee on Natural Resources to complete its reauthorization first.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Steve Southerland, II  
United States Representative



John F. Tierney  
United States Representative



Michael Grimm  
United States Representative



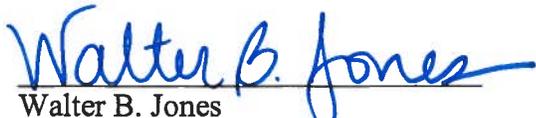
Frank Pallone  
United States Representative

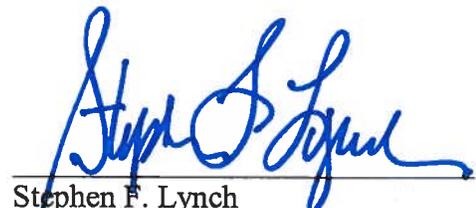


Bill Posey  
United States Representative



Mike McIntyre  
United States Representative

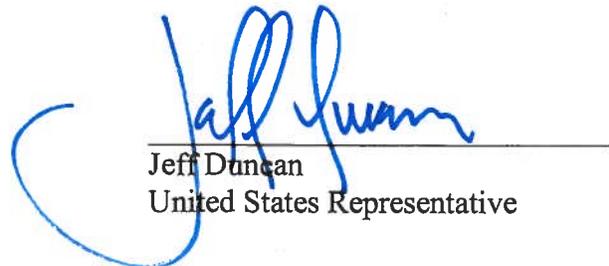
  
Walter B. Jones  
United States Representative

  
Stephen F. Lynch  
United States Representative

  
Tom Graves  
United States Representative

  
William R. Keating  
United States Representative

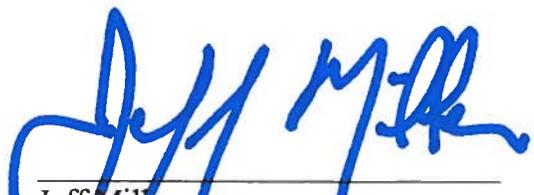
  
Jon Runyan  
United States Representative

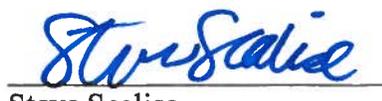
  
Jeff Duncan  
United States Representative

  
Gus M. Bilirakis  
United States Representative

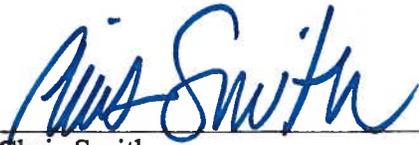
  
Austin Scott  
United States Representative

  
Frank LoBiondo  
United States Representative

  
Jeff Miller  
United States Representative

  
Steve Scalise  
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Charles W. Boustany, Jr., M.D.  
United States Representative



Chris Smith  
United States Representative



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
United States Representative



Vern Buchanan  
United States Representative



Mick Mulvaney  
United States Representative



Ted S. Yoho  
United States Representative



Louie Gohmert  
United States Representative



Trey Gowdy  
United States Representative