

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 5, 2014

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Pritzker:

We are writing to request your help in getting the second portion of fisheries disaster funding to Massachusetts as soon as possible before the end of the year.

Since the appropriation of funds for the disaster funding earlier this year, Governor Patrick, the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries and our fishing industry has worked closely with the other impacted states and NOAA Fisheries to develop plans for the use of the critically-needed fisheries disaster funds. We appreciate the release of the first portion of funds in August that went to direct subsidies for qualifying permit holders.

Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has worked diligently to develop a plan in a timely manner to use the \$8.3 million allocated to Massachusetts from the second portion of disaster funds. DMF sent a final grant application to NOAA Fisheries on October 24th and has subsequently been working with NOAA to finalize the grant.

The ongoing groundfish disaster has had a huge economic impact on fishing families and communities in Massachusetts. In many cases, the financial hardship is now acute. This second portion of money will help crewman, shoreside businesses and permit holders who did not qualify for the first portion.

The recent emergency measures put in place by NOAA that will further restrict the allowable catch of cod in the Gulf of Maine, and will therefore impact the catch of other associated groundfish, underscore the continue need for support of the Massachusetts fishing industry. We look forward to continuing to work with you to meet the immediate challenges

facing Massachusetts fishing families and to maintain this vital way of life that has meant so much to the economy of our state.

We thank you for your prompt attention to getting these critical funds to Massachusetts as soon as possible, especially during the holiday season.

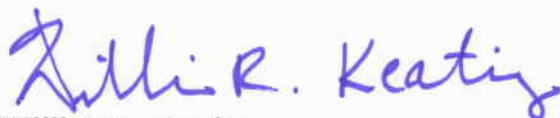
Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senate



Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senate



William R. Keating
U.S. House of Representatives

cc: Gov. Deval Patrick
OMB Director Shaun Donovan
Under Secretary of Commerce Kathryn Sullivan