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NATURAL RESOURCES
WATER, POWER, AND OCEANS – RANKING MEMBER
FEDERAL LANDS
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0502

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The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
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Dear Chairman Bishop,

I am writing today to ask that you not include legislation to amend and reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) on next week's full Committee markup agenda.

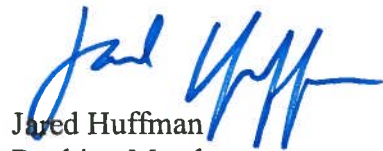
At a hearing on fisheries bill earlier this fall, Chairman Young pledged to work with me to develop legislation that would add reasonable flexibility to the MSA while also taking steps to modernize fisheries conservation and management. Since that hearing, we have met at a member level, and Republican and Democratic staff have been working diligently to negotiate such legislation. Given the importance of this issue, we should take time to get it right and not rush a bill that does not reflect this bipartisan effort, and which Members have not had time to review.

Recent attempts to reauthorize the MSA have failed when this Committee advanced bills that lacked broad bipartisan support and included poison pill provisions that had nothing to do with ensuring healthy fisheries and fishing communities. It would be a shame to see that happen again when we have made significant progress on finding a middle ground.

I see a path to a MSA reauthorization bill that can pass the Committee, the House, and the Senate on a bipartisan basis, but that path requires continued negotiation and ample opportunity for all Committee Members to review amended language and consult with constituents and stakeholders.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you to develop a strong, bipartisan MSA reauthorization.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans

cc: Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva
Chairman Doug Lamborn
Chairman Emeritus Don Young

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