

March 4, 2025

TO: The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250

RE: Working Together to Secure Strong American Fishing and Seafood Businesses

Dear Secretary Lutnick and Secretary Rollins,

We write to you as representatives of the U.S. commercial fishing industry. We represent 170 businesses and associations from Alaska to the Gulf of America to Maine dedicated to strengthening American fisheries and the benefits they provide to the nation. America is a seafood superpower. Our hardworking fishing families produce the finest seafood in the world. We feed our neighbors by providing 10 billion meals each year produced from the healthiest protein available, generate over \$180 billion in seafood sales annually, and sustain 1.6 million U.S. jobs. Our industry represents the purest forms of American maritime tradition, coastal economic prosperity, healthy food production, and food security.

Our nation's commercial fishing and seafood businesses wish to be a key part of the President's efforts to bolster domestic food production, nutrition, and self-sufficiency. We represent American businesses that can help Make America Healthy Again by increasing U.S. consumption of nutritious, domestically produced seafood. Today's fishing businesses are strong, but like our colleagues in other food-producing sectors, we face three main threats: **market challenges** that impact our bottom line, **instability and unpredictability** that reduce our ability to confidently participate in the marketplace, and a **federal system that undervalues us as food producers and under-invests in our success**. We respectfully request that you work with our industry to fix these problems. Here's how we can do this together:

Boost Domestic Seafood Markets. Americans deserve to eat more US-caught seafood. For too long, our industry has been shut out of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs, such as Farm Credit and marketing programs, available to nearly all other food producers. This allows foreign interests to undercut and gain control of an excessive share of seafood markets. By integrating seafood into USDA programs, we can ensure that more Americans have access to the healthy protein produced by our fishing families. Studies show that seafood consumption supports heart health and increases children's IQs. The equally vital Saltonstall-Kennedy Program enables fishing industry-supported investments in marketing development, infrastructure, capacity building, and advances in technologies to support U.S. fisheries and seafood. Enhancing domestic seafood production, consumption, and marketing will allow Americans to eat more US-caught seafood, increase the health of our nation, and sustain American fishing businesses.

- **We request that you work with Congress and your staff to enhance fishermen's and seafood producers' access to USDA programs that will strengthen American fisheries and seafood.**
- **We also request that the Department of Commerce preserves access to the Saltonstall-Kennedy Program, which allows us to make business development and marketing investments that strengthen the American fishing and seafood industry.**

Combat Global Seafood Bad Actors. Like many homegrown American industries, U.S. fisheries have been targeted by international bad actors whose practices destroy American markets and the value of our products. Many of our direct international competitors use forced labor on fishing vessels and in processing plants, and advance predatory pricing strategies that undermine the U.S. industry's global market share. Foreign producers of cheap, low-quality seafood have been dumping their products into our markets for years, causing immense harm to American fishermen. The competitive pressure from non-market economies is unfairly harming the U.S. private sector, hurting American workers and

communities—especially in rural areas.

- **We request the opportunity to work with you to establish rules for fair competition through tightly targeted and reciprocal trade and tariff policies that benefit American producers and put more U.S. seafood onto America's dinner plates.**
- **We also request that you direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to prioritize international seafood market fairness in cooperation with the Department of State and strengthen the systems that keep artificially cheap, contaminated, and slavery-produced seafood out of the U.S. marketplace.**

Prioritize Business Stability and Predictability, and Reduce Unnecessary Regulatory Burdens. To ensure the continued prosperity of American fisheries, it is essential to prioritize stability and predictability in the regulatory environment. Our industry relies on accurate fish population surveys and their timely interpretation. The current stakeholder-driven system is anchored by the Regional Fishery Management Councils, which enable bottom-up engagement from fishing and seafood businesses. Additionally, U.S. fisheries are heavily dependent on the regulatory process to open fishing seasons and implement reasonable management measures, and any delays or inconsistencies can have immediate and severe consequences for our fishermen's livelihoods.

- **We request that you ensure the normal function of the Regional Fishery Management Councils and the fishery management process so American fishermen can continue to work.**
- **We request that you work with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to expeditiously advance the regulatory actions necessary to operate the fishery management system and open, close, and adjust fishing seasons expeditiously.**
- **We request that officials throughout your agencies be directed to prioritize stability and predictability in the commercial fishing industry.**

Invest in Stable and Prosperous Fishing Businesses and Communities. All too often, commercial fishermen experience fishery management and agency governance as happening *to us*, not *with us*. Our industry works hard to make American fishing and seafood processing businesses both strong and innovative. Federal agency reform should prioritize managing fisheries effectively and increasing access to U.S. seafood. Research and development operations such as Sea Grant provide significant benefits to fishing businesses in the form of job creation and workforce development, efficient fishing practices, economic development, and significant return on investment. Other programs that support vessel construction, permit and quota purchases, workforce development and safety at sea, fishery disaster response, and infrastructure development are also important to our continued prosperity.

- **We request that USDA and NOAA focus on boosting domestic wild seafood production and investing in and prioritizing research that benefits our industry.**
- **We request that NMFS reforms be focused on strengthening participatory governance and management of our great ocean resources, with priority for stability, fixing broken fish survey systems, integration of fisherman-generated cooperative research data, and strong fiscal investments in the success of our industry.**
- **We request that you ensure that fishery disaster responses keep our fishing families afloat and that new investments in port and harbor infrastructure are made to support vital fishing and maritime commerce.**
- **We also request that you ensure the fishing industry's continued access to life-saving weather data, crew safety training programs, workforce development initiatives like the Young Fishermen's Development Act program, and Sea Grant.**

The undersigned businesses and organizations are a resource for your administration and our nation's decision-makers. We are here to provide insight and information as the nation navigates change and promotes domestic industry. We appreciate the opportunity to be your partners in fortifying domestic seafood economies, U.S. food security, and the health of all Americans.

Sincerely,

Linda Behnken
Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association
Sitka, Alaska

Michelle Stratton
Alaska Marine Conservation Council
Anchorage, Alaska

Aubrey Church
Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance
Chatham, Massachusetts

Eric Brazer
Gulf Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance
Galveston, Texas

Ben Martens
Maine Coast Fishermen's Association
Brunswick, Maine

Jamie Goen
Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers
Anchorage, Alaska

Willow Moore
Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust
Sitka, Alaska

Ray Melovidov
Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association
Saint Paul Island, Alaska

Joel Kawahara
Coastal Trollers Association
Quilcene, Washington

Ava Schulenberg
Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, California

Katie Harris
Fishing Vessel Owners' Association
Seattle, Washington

Harrison Ibach
Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association
Eureka, California

Andrea Tomlinson
New England Young Fishermen's Alliance
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Alexis Meschelle
Organized Fishermen of Florida
Cortez, Florida

Peter Halmay
San Diego Fishermen's Working Group
San Diego, California

Kendall Whitney
Seafood Producers Cooperative
Sitka, Alaska

Kathy Hansen
Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance
Juneau, Alaska

Bob Zales
Southeastern Fisheries Association
Panama City, Florida

Justin Zeulner
The Wave Foundation
Portland, Oregon

Max Worhatch
United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
Petersburg, Alaska

Dan Tucker
Whatcom Working Waterfront Coalition
Bellingham, Washington

Carolyn Wood
Crusty's Marine Services
Dauphin Island, Alabama

J.T. Mckissack
Evans Meats and Seafood
Birmingham, Alabama

David Walker
Walker Fishing Fleet, Inc.
Andalusia, Alabama

Nels Ure
Bristol Bay Fisherman
Naknek, Alaska

Karen Rosvold
Cape Reliant Fisheries, Inc
Petersburg, Alaska

Dustin Connor
Coast to Coast Fish Co., LLC
Petersburg, Alaska

Tyler Martin
Dawn Treader/ Petersburg vessel owners association
Petersburg, Alaska

Clifton Ivanoff
F/V New Dawn
Kodiak, Alaska

Jeff Farvour
F/V Apollo
Sitka, Alaska

Jim Eastwood
F/V Charles-T
Petersburg, Alaska

Karen L. Johnson
F/V Cloud Nine crewmember
Sitka, Alaska

Nels Otness
F/V Commander
Petersburg, Alaska

Eric Bezenek
F/V El Roi
Ketchikan, Alaska

Luke Whitethorn
F/V Haakon
Petersburg, Alaska

Stewart Vick
F/V Heather Lee
Petersburg, Alaska

Loren Lensegrav
F/v Indigo
Sitka, Alaska

Erick Sabo
F/V Insanity
Ekuik, Alaska

Kurt Kvernvik
F/V Island Girl
Petersburg, Alaska

Kirby Green
F/V Janet G LLC
Petersburg, Alaska

Nicholas Versteeg
F/V Jilly D
Petersburg, Alaska

Dave Gibson
F/v Judy May
Juneau, Alaska

Steve Fish
F/V Kariel
Sitka, Alaska

Allan Mathisen
F/V Marathon
Petersburg, Alaska

Jeffrey Turner
F/V Mirage
Sitka, Alaska

Alexus Kwachka
F/V No Point
Kodiak, Alaska

Lauren & Courtney Howard
F/V Norfjord
Sitka, Alaska

Karen, Mark, & Cameron Severson
F/V Odin Inc.
Petersburg, Alaska

Leann Cyr
F/V Patience
Sitka, Alaska

Michael Dunn
F/V Radio
Sitka, Alaska

Ryder Torgeson
F/V Republic
Sitka, Alaska

Chris Ystad
F/V True North
Sitka, Alaska

Lars Stangeland
F/V Valhalla
Juneau, Alaska

Danya Ortega & Jacob Smith
F/V Valle Lee
Sitka, Alaska

Lexi & Adam Hackett
Fish & Family LLC, F/V Myriad
Sitka, Alaska

Grace Allan
Graceful Fisheries
Kodiak, Alaska

Nick Martin
Keta Bay
Ketchikan, Alaska

Casey Flint
Rocky's Marine Inc
Petersburg, Alaska

Michael Kohan
Sitka Seafood Market
Juneau, Alaska

Jeb Phillips
Valkyrie LLC
Petersburg, Alaska

Bill Connor
Alaska Sustainable Wild Seafoods
Petersburg, Alaska

Steven Burrell
F/V Emery Nicole
Petersburg, Alaska

Teresa Stoddard
F/V Mirage
Sitka, Alaska

Raymond evens
F/V Southeastv
Petersburg, Alaska

Patrick ONeill
F/V Warthog
Dillingham, Alaska

Jo Anne & Joseph Smatlan
Angelique fisheries
Scottsdale, Arizona

Noah Strouse
California FarmLink
Santa Cruz, California

Elizabeth Penniman
F/V Katuvi
San Diego, California

Kim Selkoe
Get Hooked Seafood
Santa Barbara, California

Nicole Litvack
Local Fish Inc.
San Diego, California

Cynthia Fuller Quinonez
Parada del Mar California
National City, California

Kristie Maingot
Santa Barbara Fish Market
Santa Barbara, California

Tanner Saraspe
Saraspe Seafoods
San Diego, California

Camilla Lombard
Sea Forager
San Francisco, California

Mike Conroy
West Coast Fisheries Consultants
Long Beach, California

Glen & Ciara Brooks
Brooks Dockside Seafood
Inglis, Florida

Captain Gary Jarvis
Brotulas Seafood LLC, East Pass Seafood & Oyster House
Destin, Florida

Mark Tryon
Commercial fisherman
Gulf Breeze, Florida

Brad Kenyon
F/V Dawn Mari Florida Family Fishies
Satellite Beach, Florida

Gary Jarvis
F/V Labella, Jarvis Family Restaurants, Boat Owners Assist & Training LLC
Destin, Florida

Mike Eller
F/V Lady Em
Destin, Florida

Brian Lewis
F/V Trip limit
Clearwater, Florida

Mike Colby
Florida Coast Charters
Clearwater, Florida

Raymond Scott Childress
G&S Fishing, LLC & F/V Affinity 2
New Port Richey, Florida

Justin Bruland
JB Fisheries Inc.
Marathon, Florida

Paul Bertell & Louis Rimondi
Leebe Fish, Inc.
Marco Island, Florida

Michael Lombardi
Lombardi's Seafood
Winter Park, Florida

Paul Loughridge
Loughridge brothers seafood co
Yankeetown, Florida

Vincent Buie
Miss Martha
Steinhatchee, Florida

Bob Gill
Retired Fisherman
Crystal River, Florida

Billy Archer
Seminole Wind Fishing
Panama, Florida

Bryce Jarvis
Slick Lipps Seafood & Oysters LLC
Miramar, Florida

James Zubrick
Tides Up Fisheries & Fish For America USA
Steinhatchee, Florida

Anna Woods
Woody's Fisheries
Perry, Florida

John Coulter & Dennis Crosby
Captain Show LLC
St Marks, Florida

Robert Lanier Pair
F/V Pair A Dice
Steinhatchee, Florida

Jimmy Hull
Hulls Seafood Inc.
Ormond Beach, Florida

Paul Reeves
Reeves Fishing Inc.
Steinhatchee, Florida

Molly Lutcavage
Tuna2Oceans LLC
Koloa, Hawaii

Karen Wollins
Hooked on Fish
Chicago, Illinois

Anthony Colletti
F/V Almost There
Leeville, Louisiana

Ed Pitre
Southern Pride Charters
Galliano, Louisiana

Emily Lane
Blue Lobster Consulting LLC
Vinalhaven, Maine

Togue Brawn
Downeast Dayboat
Bath, Maine

Joseph Locurto
F/v Jasmine Marie
Steuben, Maine

Julie Robillard & Dennis Robillard Jr
F/V Julie Ann III
Eliot, Maine

Noah Oppenheim
Homarus Strategies LLC
Brunswick, Maine

John Painter
Maine Green Crabs
Owls Head, Maine

Douglas Niven
Mere Point Oyster
Brunswick, Maine

Dustin Emery
F/V Every Last \$\$\$
Jonesboro, Maine

David Peterson
F/V Bjorn Sven
Chatham, Massachusetts

Zachary bennett
F/V Helltown
Chatham, Massachusetts

Hudson Frye
F/V Mckensie Lee
New Bedford, Massachusetts

Joe Clancy
F/V Nobska, F/V Proud Mary, F/V Beast of Burden, F/V Michael and Kristen
Gloucester, Massachusetts

Jacob Lane
F/V Time Machine
Cohasset, Massachusetts

Robert Keese
Keese Fishing LLC
Bourne, Massachusetts

Daniel Howes
Last Resort Fisheries Inc.
Orleans, Massachusetts

Rhodes Cole
Lured By Adventure
Gloucester, Massachusetts

Braden Wilson
Olive Juice Fisheries, LLC
Provincetown, Massachusetts

Courtney Cole
Resolve Place, LLC
Rockport, Massachusetts

Philip Michaud jr
Scout fisheries Inc.
Sandwich, Massachusetts

Eric Hesse
Tenacious Marine
Barnstable, Massachusetts

David Hills
F/V Certifiable
Orleans, Massachusetts

Sean Leach
F/V Jessica Beth
Harwich, Massachusetts

Don Nadeau
F/V Rover
Chatham, Massachusetts

Thomas Luce
F/V Sea Win
Harwich, Massachusetts

Glen LeGeyt
F/V Tricia Lynn
Harwich, Massachusetts

John Oliveira
Jillian and Peri LLC
Gloucester, Massachusetts

Michael Goodwin
Mg fisheries
Gloucester, Massachusetts

Max Nolan
Outlaw Fisheries Inc.
Eastham, Massachusetts

Joseph M Letourneau
Sustainable Fisheries, LLC. & F/V Lady Rebecca
Newburyport, Massachusetts

Steve Tomeny
Steve Tomeny Inc
Pass Christian, Mississippi

Clarence Seymour
SYL Charters
Biloxi, Mississippi

Tyler Robillard
Deckhand on the F/V Katie Rue
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Laura Brown
Fox Point Oysters, LLC
Dover, New Hampshire

Ryan Horwath
Pacific Cloud Seafoods
Buffalo, New York

John Aldridge
Anna Mary Fisheries
Montauk, New York

George Beyer
F/V Grateful
Southport, North Carolina

Laura Ritter
LMR Consulting
Raleigh, North Carolina

Jason Hall
Washington Crab Co.
Washington, North Carolina

Amy Sharp
F/V Spring Persuader
Seaside, Oregon

AnnaRose Adams
Resilient Systems Consulting
Salem, Oregon

Talia Young
Fishadelphia
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Patrick Duckworth
F/V Stella Maris
Point Judith, Rhode Island

Kate Masury
Eating with the Ecosystem
Wakefield, Rhode Island

Marilyn Hemingway
Gullah Geechee Seafood Trail of the Gullah Geechee Chamber
Georgetown, South Carolina

Billy Wright
Brand-X
Galveston, Texas

Costa Kouzounis
Costa's Fishing Company
Galveston, Texas

Rachael Diane Jackson-Hisler & George Hisler II
F/V Edna Hisler
Double Bayou, Texas

Greg Ball
F/V Wave Dancer 2 & B & B Sportfishing, LLC
Galveston, Texas

Buddy Guindon
Katie's Seafood Market
Galveston, Texas

Chance Adams
Salt and Light Fishing LLC
Freeport, Texas

Bubba Cochrane
Southern Seafood LLC
Galveston, Texas

Maria Steyaart
F/V Miss Alice & Community Dock Seafood
Duxbury, Vermont

Andrew Shelton
Andrew Shelton Homes Realty
Bellingham, Washington

Amy Grondin
Duna Fisheries, LLC
Port Townsend, Washington

Season & James Long
F/V Longshot
Chinook, Washington

Garrett Elwood
F/V Western Freedom LLC
Bellingham, Washington

Kevin Scribner
Forever Wild Seafood
Walla Walla, Washington

Karl Jordan
Jordan Fisheries & F/V Samara
Sequim, Washington

Pete Granger
Legoe Bay Fisheries
Bellingham, Washington

Tele Aadsen & Joel Brady-Power
Nerka Sea Frozen Salmon & F/V Nerka
Bow, Washington

Chelsea Keutmann
Sea to Shore Seafood Co.
Bellingham, Washington

Sena Wheeler
Sena Sea Seafoods
Cashmere, Washington

Kiefer Hermann
Slangin Salmon
Oak Harbor, Washington

Eryn Domeyer
Tre-Fin Day Boat Seafood & F/V Gracee B
Ilwaco, Washington

Frances Bursch
Wild North Salmon LLC
Seattle, Washington

Robert Briscoe Jr
Royal Fisheries LLC
Blaine, Washington

Adra Kusnirova
Alaska Fresh
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Todd & Carin Hickey Stuth
Baileys Harbor Fish Company LLC
Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin

cc: Ashley Schiller, Senior Advisor for Policy and Program Integration, Department of Commerce
Sean Flowers, Chief Information Security Officer, Office of the Secretary of Commerce
Kurt Bersani, Enterprise Services Office, Office of the Secretary of Commerce
Vice Admiral Nancy Hann, Deputy Under Secretary for Operations, NOAA
Emily Menashes, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries
Erik Noble, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, NOAA
Laura Grimm, Chief of Staff, NOAA
Kailee Marie Tkacz, Chief of Staff, USDA
Preston Parry, Deputy Chief of Staff, USDA
Dominic Restuccia, White House Liaison, USDA
Kayleigh Hurley, Deputy White House Liaison
Michael Stumo, Associate Director for Economic Policy and the Made in America Office, OMB
Mark Calabria, Associate Director for Treasury, Housing, and Commerce, OMB
Stuart Levenbach, Associate Director for Natural Resources, Energy, Science, and Water, OMB