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Anna G. Eshoo
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Washington, DC 20515-0514

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DEMOCRATIC BUDGET GROUP

July 2006

Dear Friend,

Because of your interest in the ongoing crisis being experienced in the salmon fishing industry along the West Coast, I'm pleased to inform you that Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez has declared a "fishery resource disaster" for commercial salmon fishermen in California and Oregon.

The Secretary's declaration offers fishermen access to low-interest Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loans. The Department of Commerce will also be dispatching high-level officials to the Klamath River communities beginning the week of July 10th to expedite the collection of economic impact data. This data will help determine whether a "commercial fishery failure" can be declared and further assistance provided, including direct economic assistance. The Secretary also announced that he will be giving California and Oregon more flexibility to use the 2006 funds for salmon recovery projects in the Klamath Basin and use the funds to employ salmon fishermen to do some of the work on these projects. Last year, California and Oregon received \$6.5 million each from the Pacific Salmon Recovery Fund.

On June 29th Secretary Gutierrez testified at the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. As a Member of this Committee, I pressed the Secretary about his failure to acknowledge the disastrous impact the commercial salmon fishery closure has had on fishermen and the communities up and down the West Coast, and I urged him to declare a fishery failure disaster so that direct federal financial assistance could be provided to the affected fishermen. Attached is a copy of my statement for your perusal.

While this Declaration is a positive first step, it falls short of a full fishery failure disaster declaration. More needs to be done to provide relief to the salmon fishermen and affected communities that depend on this resource to sustain their way of life. Many of the fishermen who have been affected by the fishery closure do not have the financial ability to repay these loans, as the fishery closure has deprived them of their income.

I intend to use this decision by Secretary Gutierrez as a starting block for securing direct financial assistance to the impacted fishing communities up and down the California and Oregon coasts and will continue to work closely with my colleagues in Congress to secure this federal disaster funding.

[over]

In the meantime, individuals seeking assistance through the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program should contact:

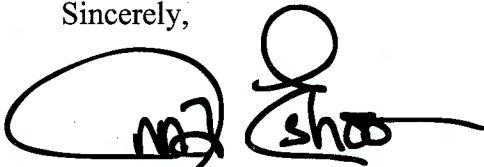
U.S. Small Business Administration

Office of Disaster Assistance
Field Operations Center - West
Post Office Box 419004
Sacramento, California 95841-9004
(800) 488-5323
(916) 735-1500

More information about Economic Injury Disaster Loans is also available at http://www.sba.gov/disaster_recov/loaninfo/ecoinjury.html.

I will continue to provide you with updates as we work to provide relief to the commercial salmon fishermen and the coastal communities that have been devastated by these restrictions. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact my District Office at (650) 323-2984 or (831) 335-2020 with any questions or comments or visit my website at <http://eshoo.house.gov/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Eshoo', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Attachment