



**City of New Bedford
Office of The Mayor**

133 William Street • New Bedford, MA 02740
Tel (508) 979-1410 • Fax (508) 991-6189



**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable Richard Shelby
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shelby:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) from expending funds to create new regulatory systems under its highly-controversial National Catch Share Program, a regime that has created regulations that are crippling the livelihoods of ground fisherman in the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England and Gulf of Mexico.

Of the 500 groundfishing vessels in Massachusetts only 253 were active in the first five months of 2010. Vessels formerly in operation are now sitting at the dock. The loss of jobs in our region has been devastating to local economies. The implementation of Amendment 16 has done nothing to slow the deterioration of New England's fishing ports; on the contrary it has accelerated consolidation. As of December, the economic pressure to consolidate operations deriving from per-boat fishing limits resulted in 55 of the 247 boats fishing in New England earning 61 percent of sector revenue. The remaining 192 earned only 39 percent.

The term "Catch Shares" has no consistent meaning, but rather is used to describe different systems in various fisheries across geographic regions of the nation. In fact, the term does not exist in law. It was originally promoted by the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), and describes many versions of Limited Access Privilege Permit (LAPP) systems. NOAA refers to Catch Shares as merely one "tool" available to fisheries regulators.

For some fisheries in some geographic areas, some forms of Catch Shares have been successful. But as EDF, the chief proponent of Catch Shares in the United States, notes Catch Share systems must be well designed. Unfortunately, in a rush to urge – even force – fisheries regulators to adopt this "tool", ill-conceived and poorly designed versions of Catch Shares are being implemented prematurely.

The bipartisan House vote is a sign of the increasing opposition to failed, fiscally unsound programs that have already put thousands of fishermen out of work. With the Obama administration planning to spend \$54 million next year to further ramp up these regulations on a highly questionable scientific basis -- and one that makes industrialized fishing operations win out over the small family-owned businesses that are the economic and social heart of our communities -- the economic costs are too high.

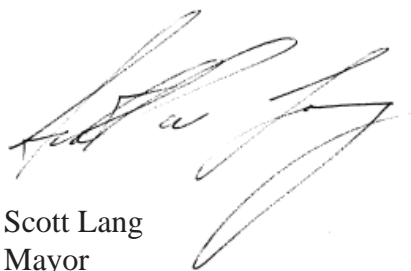
Introduced in May 2010, the "sector" version of Catch Shares forced Northeast boat operators and groundfishing operations into costly and complex management cooperatives that are destroying an otherwise viable historic industry. The system is failing to implement the law and intent of Magnuson-Stevens, which is the balancing resource conservation with community needs. Fishing interests from Maine to North Carolina -- including both of our cities -- are currently involved in a federal lawsuit to force NOAA to correct these problems and to change its methods of operation.

Before the implementation of the system, elected officials and industry representatives asked NOAA for a reasonable delay on implementation, to allow for time to get it right. We noted that extraordinarily conservative and scientifically unnecessary low allocations were likely to cause the "sectors" to fail. We noted that the retention of parts of the old effort control regulations from the previous system was contradictory and incompatible with LAPP or quota systems such as catch shares. We noted that Magnuson-Stevens requires an industry-wide referendum before LAPP systems are implanted, a requirement which NOAA ignored using legal slight-of hand.

Despite the sustained efforts of local fishing communities, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, as well as Republican and Democratic lawmakers in the House and Senate, NOAA has refused to use their power under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to allow for the increased, yet scientifically sound, fishing quotas that might allow the program to work. This has left many small fishermen with little choice than to sell their allocation to large entities and close.

As Governor Patrick noted in his November plea to Commerce Secretary Gary Locke for regulatory relief, the Division of Marine Fisheries and the University of Dartmouth found that an additional 14,500 metric tons of fish caught in East Coast waters can be brought to market with no negative impact on species sustainability.

Please join the bipartisan, bicameral group of lawmakers who have urged the unresponsive Commerce Department to consider alternatives to this terribly flawed, economically and scientifically unsound regulatory scheme by supporting its defunding. Thank you for your time and consideration of the hard working people and families of our communities.



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The Honorable Jeff Sessions
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

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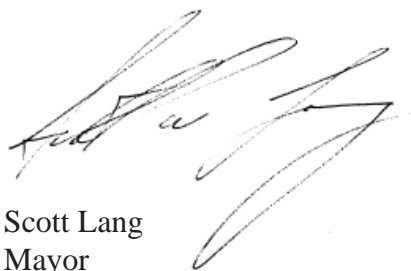
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The Honorable Mark Begich
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Begich:

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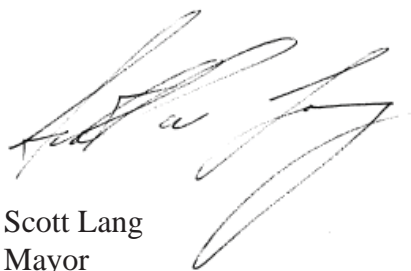
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The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

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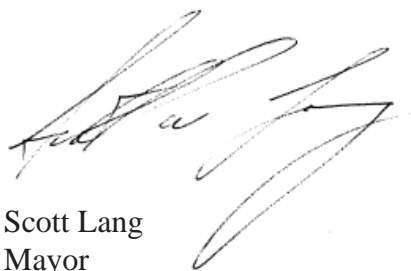
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The Honorable John McCain
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCain:

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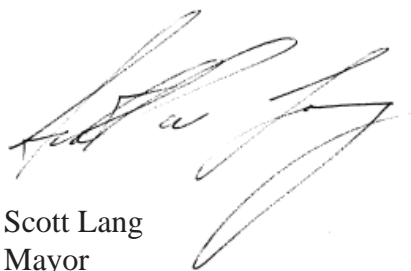
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The Honorable Jon Kyl
730 Hart Senate Office Building
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Dear Senator Kyl:

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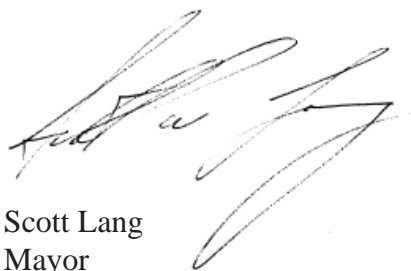
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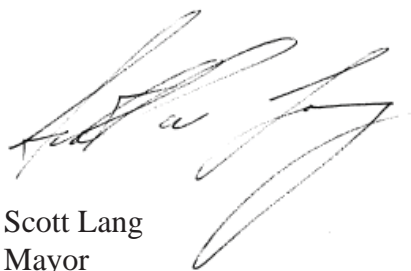
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**City of New Bedford
Office of The Mayor**

133 William Street • New Bedford, MA 02740
Tel (508) 979-1410 • Fax (508) 991-6189



**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable John Boozman
1 Russel Courtyard
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boozman:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) from expending funds to create new regulatory systems under its highly-controversial National Catch Share Program, a regime that has created regulations that are crippling the livelihoods of ground fisherman in the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England and Gulf of Mexico.

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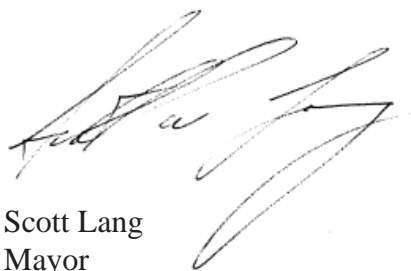
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Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

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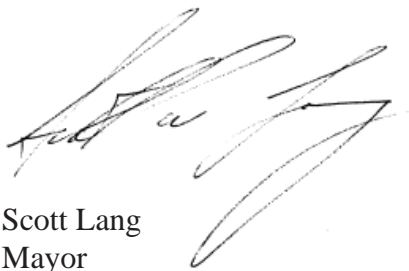
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The Honorable Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

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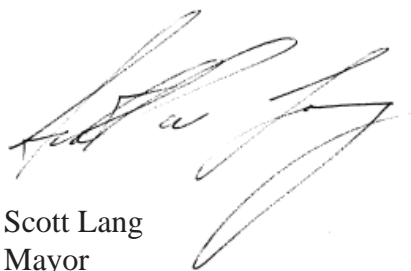
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The Honorable Mark Udall
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

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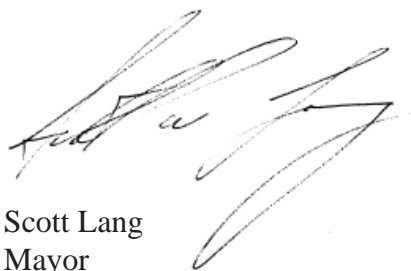
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The Honorable Michael Bennet
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

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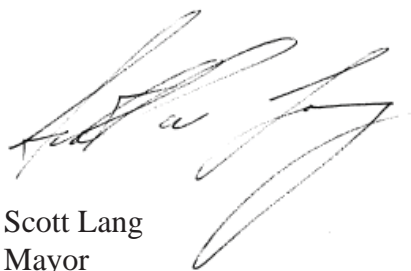
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The Honorable Joseph Lieberman
706 Hart Senate Office Building
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Dear Senator Lieberman:

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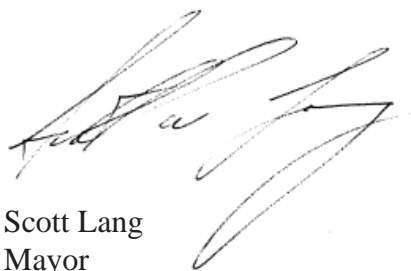
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**City of New Bedford
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133 William Street • New Bedford, MA 02740
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**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
G55 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) from expending funds to create new regulatory systems under its highly-controversial National Catch Share Program, a regime that has created regulations that are crippling the livelihoods of ground fisherman in the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England and Gulf of Mexico.

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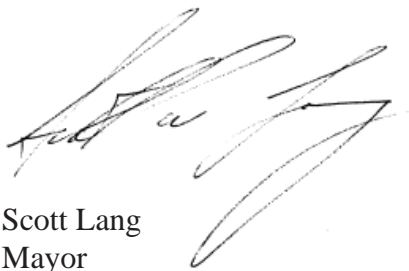
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The Honorable Thomas Carper
512 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Carper:

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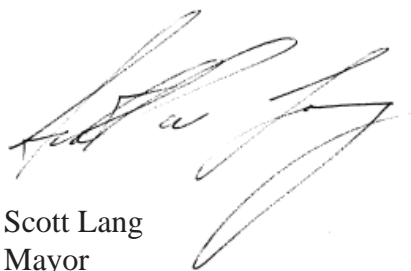
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The Honorable Chris Coons
383 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coons:

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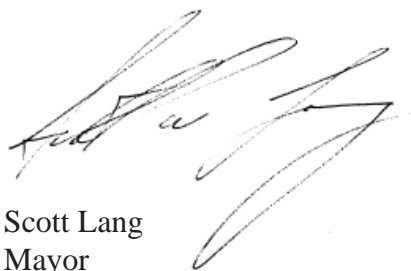
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The Honorable Bill Nelson
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

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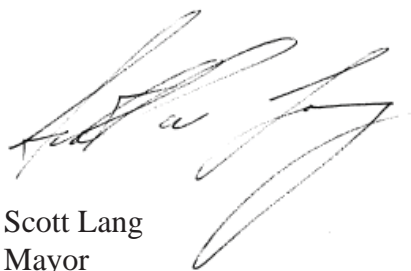
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The Honorable Marco Rubio
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rubio:

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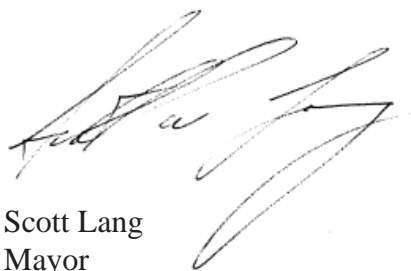
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The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

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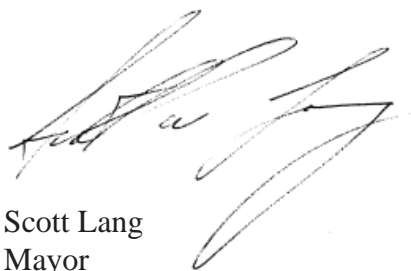
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Mayor
New Bedford, Massachusetts



Carolyn A. Kirk
Mayor
Gloucester, Massachusetts



**City of New Bedford
Office of The Mayor**

133 William Street • New Bedford, MA 02740
Tel (508) 979-1410 • Fax (508) 991-6189



**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
131 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Isakson:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) from expending funds to create new regulatory systems under its highly-controversial National Catch Share Program, a regime that has created regulations that are crippling the livelihoods of ground fisherman in the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England and Gulf of Mexico.

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The bipartisan House vote is a sign of the increasing opposition to failed, fiscally unsound programs that have already put thousands of fishermen out of work. With the Obama administration planning to spend \$54 million next year to further ramp up these regulations on a highly questionable scientific basis -- and one that makes industrialized fishing operations win out over the small family-owned businesses that are the economic and social heart of our communities -- the economic costs are too high.

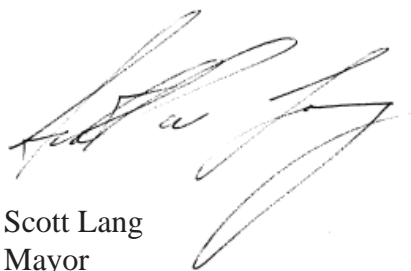
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The Honorable Daniel Inouye
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Inouye:

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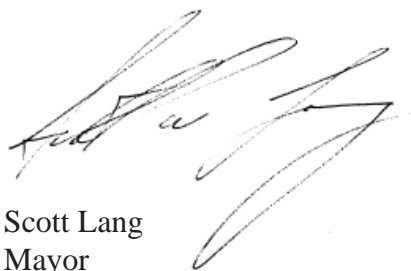
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The Honorable Daniel Akala
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Akala:

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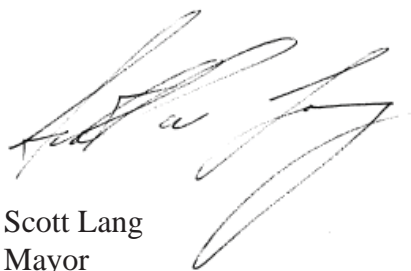
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The Honorable Mike Crapo
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Crapo:

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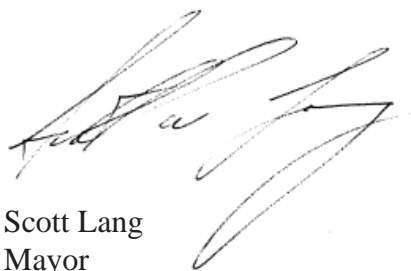
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The Honorable James Risch
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Risch:

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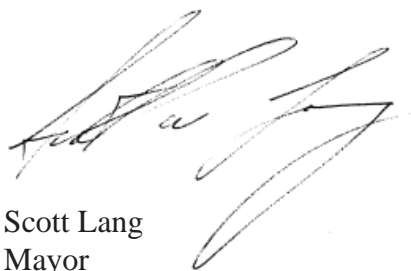
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The Honorable Dick Durbin
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

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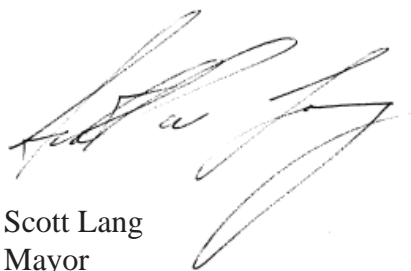
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The Honorable Mark Kirk
387 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kirk:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) from expending funds to create new regulatory systems under its highly-controversial National Catch Share Program, a regime that has created regulations that are crippling the livelihoods of ground fisherman in the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England and Gulf of Mexico.

Of the 500 groundfishing vessels in Massachusetts only 253 were active in the first five months of 2010. Vessels formerly in operation are now sitting at the dock. The loss of jobs in our region has been devastating to local economies. The implementation of Amendment 16 has done nothing to slow the deterioration of New England's fishing ports; on the contrary it has accelerated consolidation. As of December, the economic pressure to consolidate operations deriving from per-boat fishing limits resulted in 55 of the 247 boats fishing in New England earning 61 percent of sector revenue. The remaining 192 earned only 39 percent.

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The bipartisan House vote is a sign of the increasing opposition to failed, fiscally unsound programs that have already put thousands of fishermen out of work. With the Obama administration planning to spend \$54 million next year to further ramp up these regulations on a highly questionable scientific basis -- and one that makes industrialized fishing operations win out over the small family-owned businesses that are the economic and social heart of our communities -- the economic costs are too high.

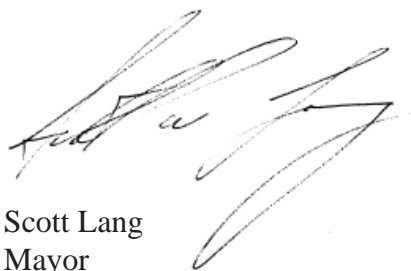
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Despite the sustained efforts of local fishing communities, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, as well as Republican and Democratic lawmakers in the House and Senate, NOAA has refused to use their power under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to allow for the increased, yet scientifically sound, fishing quotas that might allow the program to work. This has left many small fishermen with little choice than to sell their allocation to large entities and close.

As Governor Patrick noted in his November plea to Commerce Secretary Gary Locke for regulatory relief, the Division of Marine Fisheries and the University of Dartmouth found that an additional 14,500 metric tons of fish caught in East Coast waters can be brought to market with no negative impact on species sustainability.

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**City of New Bedford
Office of The Mayor**

133 William Street • New Bedford, MA 02740
Tel (508) 979-1410 • Fax (508) 991-6189



**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable Richard Lugar
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

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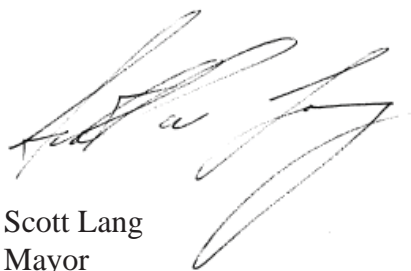
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The Honorable Dan Coats
B40E Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coats:

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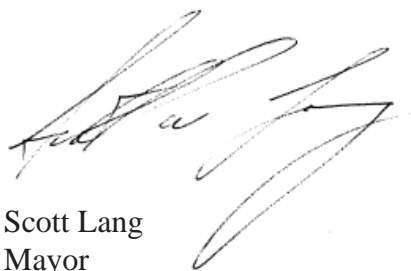
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The Honorable Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

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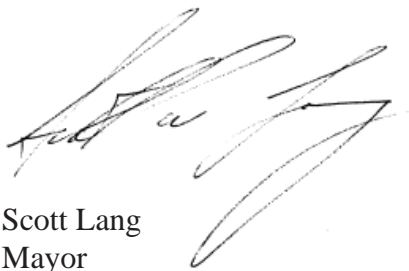
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The Honorable Tom Harkin
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harkin:

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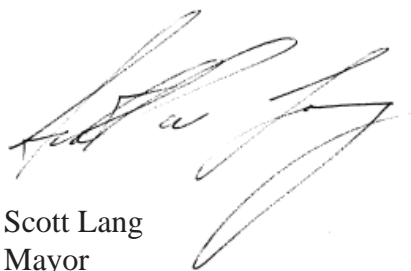
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The Honorable Pat Roberts
109 Hart Senate Office Building
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Dear Senator Roberts:

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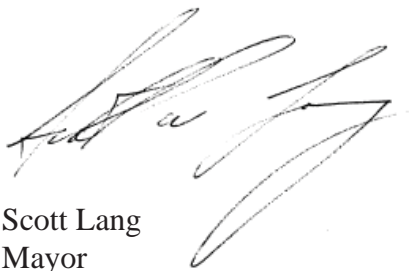
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The Honorable Jerry Moran
4 Russell Courtyard
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Moran:

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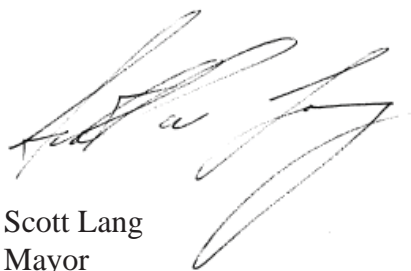
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**City of New Bedford
Office of The Mayor**

133 William Street • New Bedford, MA 02740
Tel (508) 979-1410 • Fax (508) 991-6189



**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) from expending funds to create new regulatory systems under its highly-controversial National Catch Share Program, a regime that has created regulations that are crippling the livelihoods of ground fisherman in the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England and Gulf of Mexico.

Of the 500 groundfishing vessels in Massachusetts only 253 were active in the first five months of 2010. Vessels formerly in operation are now sitting at the dock. The loss of jobs in our region has been devastating to local economies. The implementation of Amendment 16 has done nothing to slow the deterioration of New England's fishing ports; on the contrary it has accelerated consolidation. As of December, the economic pressure to consolidate operations deriving from per-boat fishing limits resulted in 55 of the 247 boats fishing in New England earning 61 percent of sector revenue. The remaining 192 earned only 39 percent.

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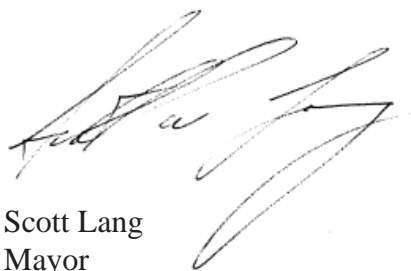
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The Honorable Rand Paul
5 Russell Courtyard
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Paul:

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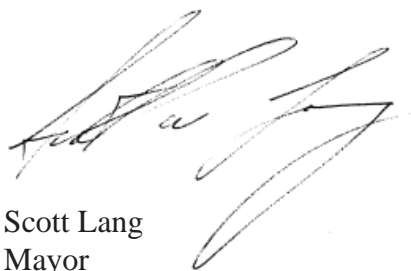
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The Honorable Mary Landrieu
431 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Landrieu:

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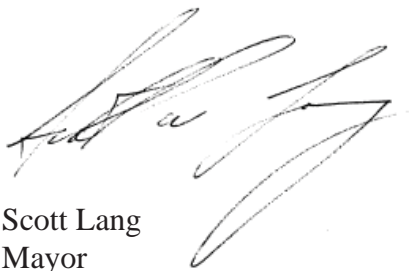
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The Honorable David Vitter
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Vitter:

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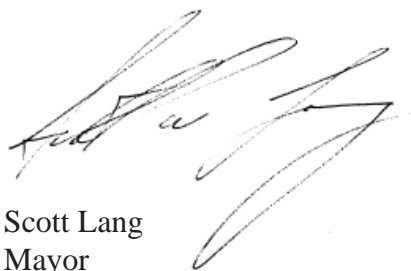
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The Honorable Olympia Snowe
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Snowe:

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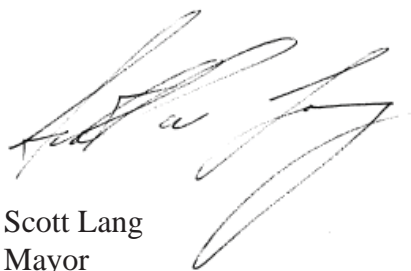
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The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
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Dear Senator Collins:

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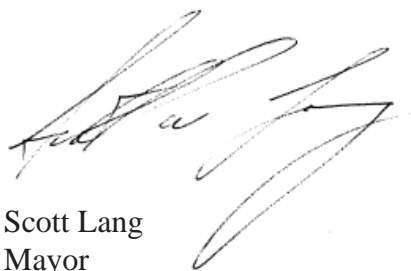
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**City of New Bedford
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**City of Gloucester
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City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
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The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Mikulski:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) from expending funds to create new regulatory systems under its highly-controversial National Catch Share Program, a regime that has created regulations that are crippling the livelihoods of ground fisherman in the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England and Gulf of Mexico.

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The bipartisan House vote is a sign of the increasing opposition to failed, fiscally unsound programs that have already put thousands of fishermen out of work. With the Obama administration planning to spend \$54 million next year to further ramp up these regulations on a highly questionable scientific basis -- and one that makes industrialized fishing operations win out over the small family-owned businesses that are the economic and social heart of our communities -- the economic costs are too high.

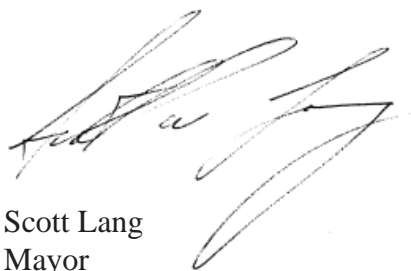
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The Honorable Ben Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

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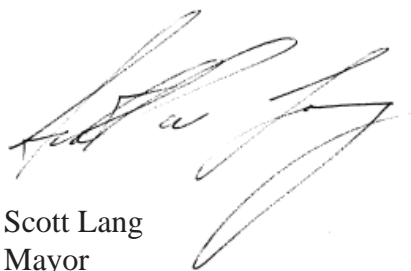
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The Honorable John Kerry
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

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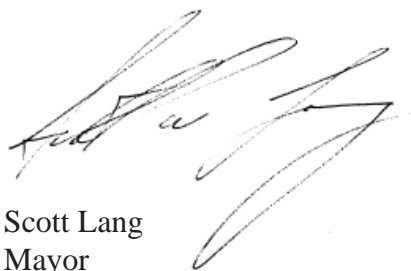
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The Honorable Scott Brown
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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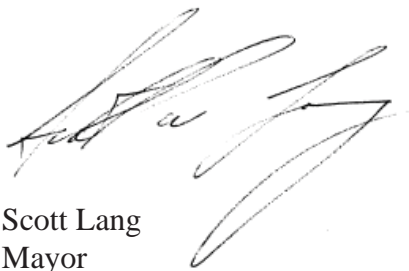
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The Honorable Carl Levin
269 Russell Senate Office Building
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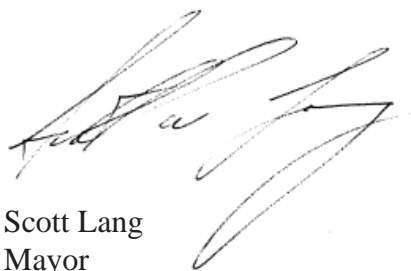
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The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
133 Hart Senate Office Building
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Dear Senator Stabenow:

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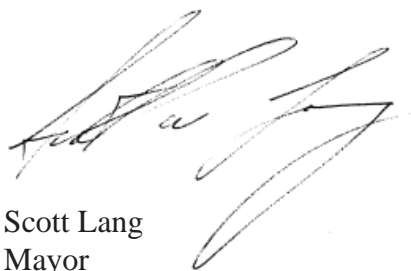
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Mayor
New Bedford, Massachusetts



Carolyn A. Kirk
Mayor
Gloucester, Massachusetts



**City of New Bedford
Office of The Mayor**

133 William Street • New Bedford, MA 02740
Tel (508) 979-1410 • Fax (508) 991-6189



**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) from expending funds to create new regulatory systems under its highly-controversial National Catch Share Program, a regime that has created regulations that are crippling the livelihoods of ground fisherman in the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England and Gulf of Mexico.

Of the 500 groundfishing vessels in Massachusetts only 253 were active in the first five months of 2010. Vessels formerly in operation are now sitting at the dock. The loss of jobs in our region has been devastating to local economies. The implementation of Amendment 16 has done nothing to slow the deterioration of New England's fishing ports; on the contrary it has accelerated consolidation. As of December, the economic pressure to consolidate operations deriving from per-boat fishing limits resulted in 55 of the 247 boats fishing in New England earning 61 percent of sector revenue. The remaining 192 earned only 39 percent.

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The bipartisan House vote is a sign of the increasing opposition to failed, fiscally unsound programs that have already put thousands of fishermen out of work. With the Obama administration planning to spend \$54 million next year to further ramp up these regulations on a highly questionable scientific basis -- and one that makes industrialized fishing operations win out over the small family-owned businesses that are the economic and social heart of our communities -- the economic costs are too high.

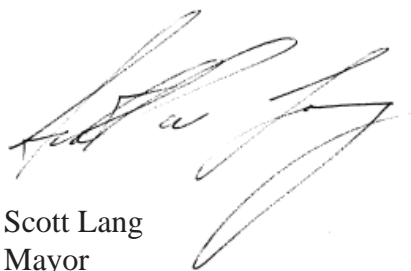
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The Honorable Al Franken
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Franken:

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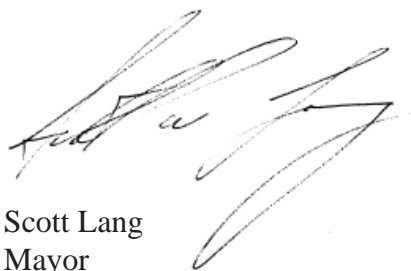
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The Honorable Thad Cochran
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cochran:

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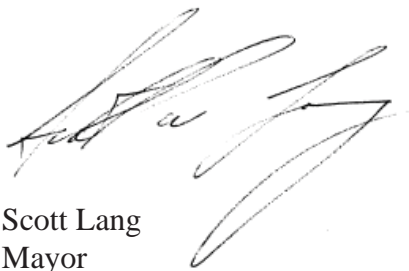
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The Honorable Roger Wicker
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wicker:

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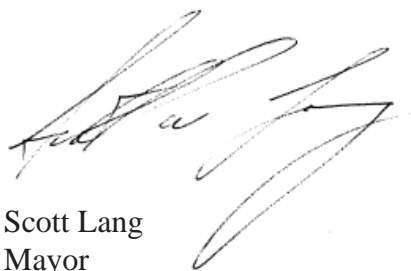
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The Honorable Claire McCaskill
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCaskill:

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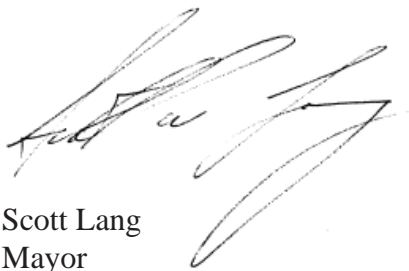
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The Honorable Roy Blunt
B40C Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blunt:

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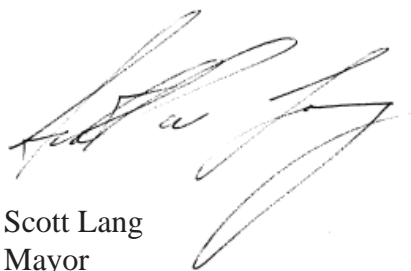
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The Honorable Max Baucus
511 Hart Senate Office Building
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Dear Senator Baucus:

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The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) from expending funds to create new regulatory systems under its highly-controversial National Catch Share Program, a regime that has created regulations that are crippling the livelihoods of ground fisherman in the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England and Gulf of Mexico.

Of the 500 groundfishing vessels in Massachusetts only 253 were active in the first five months of 2010. Vessels formerly in operation are now sitting at the dock. The loss of jobs in our region has been devastating to local economies. The implementation of Amendment 16 has done nothing to slow the deterioration of New England's fishing ports; on the contrary it has accelerated consolidation. As of December, the economic pressure to consolidate operations deriving from per-boat fishing limits resulted in 55 of the 247 boats fishing in New England earning 61 percent of sector revenue. The remaining 192 earned only 39 percent.

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The bipartisan House vote is a sign of the increasing opposition to failed, fiscally unsound programs that have already put thousands of fishermen out of work. With the Obama administration planning to spend \$54 million next year to further ramp up these regulations on a highly questionable scientific basis -- and one that makes industrialized fishing operations win out over the small family-owned businesses that are the economic and social heart of our communities -- the economic costs are too high.

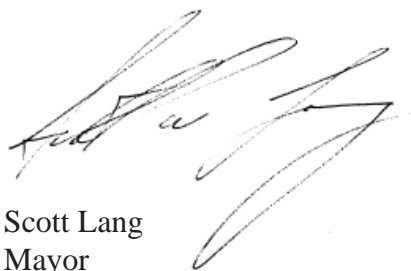
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Despite the sustained efforts of local fishing communities, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, as well as Republican and Democratic lawmakers in the House and Senate, NOAA has refused to use their power under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to allow for the increased, yet scientifically sound, fishing quotas that might allow the program to work. This has left many small fishermen with little choice than to sell their allocation to large entities and close.

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**City of New Bedford
Office of The Mayor**

133 William Street • New Bedford, MA 02740
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**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable John Tester
724 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

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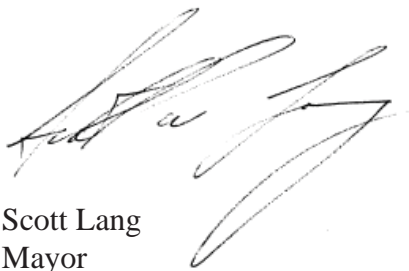
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The Honorable Ben Nelson
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

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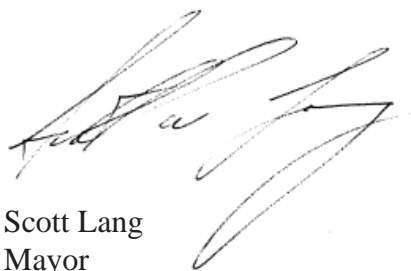
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The Honorable Mike Johanns
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Johanns:

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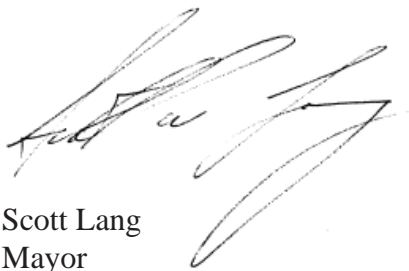
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The Honorable Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

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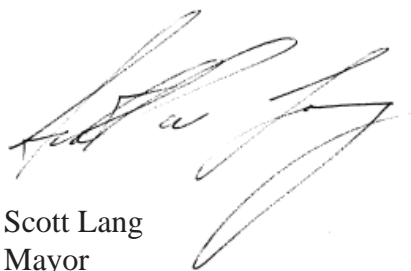
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The Honorable John Ensign
119 Russell Senate Office Building
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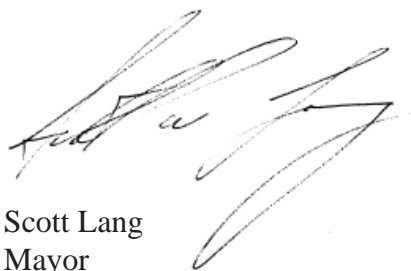
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The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

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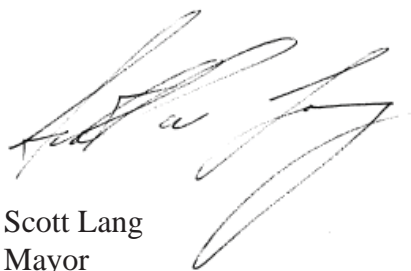
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**City of New Bedford
Office of The Mayor**

133 William Street • New Bedford, MA 02740
Tel (508) 979-1410 • Fax (508) 991-6189



**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable Kelly Ayotte
188 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ayotte:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) from expending funds to create new regulatory systems under its highly-controversial National Catch Share Program, a regime that has created regulations that are crippling the livelihoods of ground fisherman in the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England and Gulf of Mexico.

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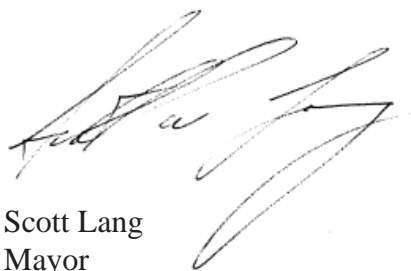
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Office of The Mayor**

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**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable Frank Lautenberg
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lautenberg:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

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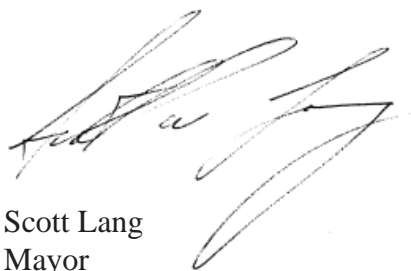
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The Honorable Robert Menendez
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

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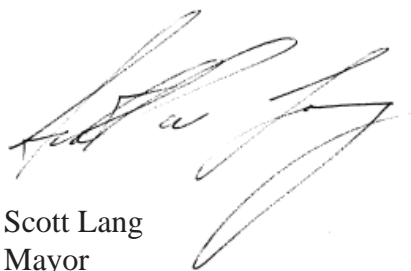
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The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bingaman:

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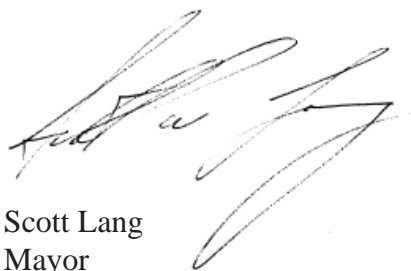
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The Honorable Thomas Udall
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

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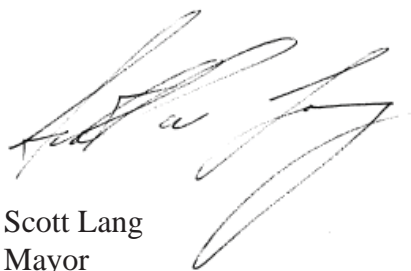
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The Honorable Charles Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
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Dear Senator Schumer:

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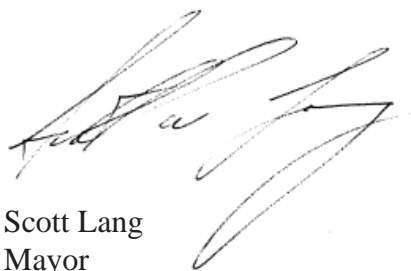
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**City of New Bedford
Office of The Mayor**

133 William Street • New Bedford, MA 02740
Tel (508) 979-1410 • Fax (508) 991-6189



**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) from expending funds to create new regulatory systems under its highly-controversial National Catch Share Program, a regime that has created regulations that are crippling the livelihoods of ground fisherman in the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England and Gulf of Mexico.

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The bipartisan House vote is a sign of the increasing opposition to failed, fiscally unsound programs that have already put thousands of fishermen out of work. With the Obama administration planning to spend \$54 million next year to further ramp up these regulations on a highly questionable scientific basis -- and one that makes industrialized fishing operations win out over the small family-owned businesses that are the economic and social heart of our communities -- the economic costs are too high.

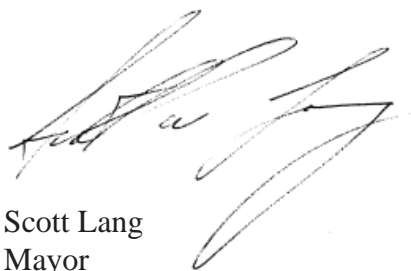
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Office of The Mayor**

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The Honorable Richard Burr
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Burr:

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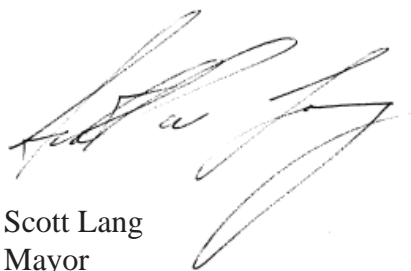
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The Honorable Kay Hagan
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hagan:

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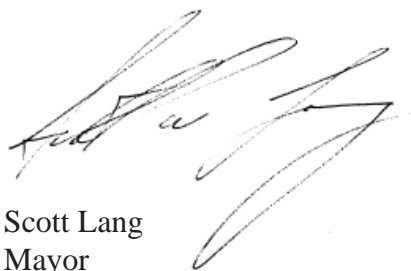
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The Honorable Kent Conrad
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Conrad:

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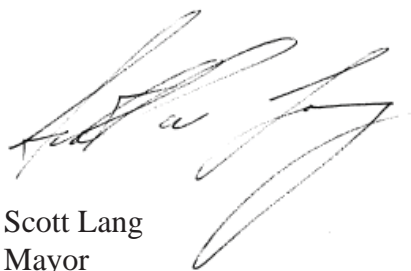
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The Honorable John Hoeven
G11 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hoeven:

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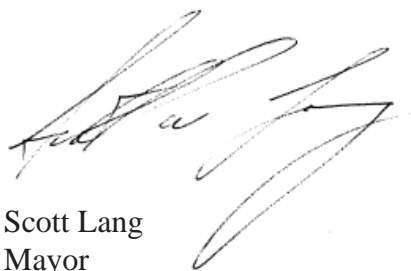
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The Honorable Sherrod Brown
713 Hart Senate Office Building
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Dear Senator Brown:

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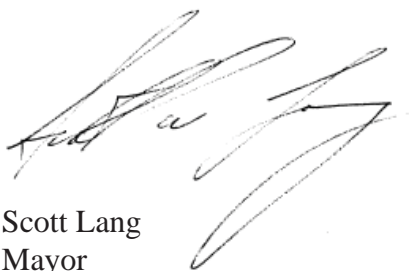
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New Bedford, Massachusetts



Carolyn A. Kirk
Mayor
Gloucester, Massachusetts



**City of New Bedford
Office of The Mayor**

133 William Street • New Bedford, MA 02740
Tel (508) 979-1410 • Fax (508) 991-6189



**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable Rob Portman
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) from expending funds to create new regulatory systems under its highly-controversial National Catch Share Program, a regime that has created regulations that are crippling the livelihoods of ground fisherman in the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England and Gulf of Mexico.

Of the 500 groundfishing vessels in Massachusetts only 253 were active in the first five months of 2010. Vessels formerly in operation are now sitting at the dock. The loss of jobs in our region has been devastating to local economies. The implementation of Amendment 16 has done nothing to slow the deterioration of New England's fishing ports; on the contrary it has accelerated consolidation. As of December, the economic pressure to consolidate operations deriving from per-boat fishing limits resulted in 55 of the 247 boats fishing in New England earning 61 percent of sector revenue. The remaining 192 earned only 39 percent.

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The bipartisan House vote is a sign of the increasing opposition to failed, fiscally unsound programs that have already put thousands of fishermen out of work. With the Obama administration planning to spend \$54 million next year to further ramp up these regulations on a highly questionable scientific basis -- and one that makes industrialized fishing operations win out over the small family-owned businesses that are the economic and social heart of our communities -- the economic costs are too high.

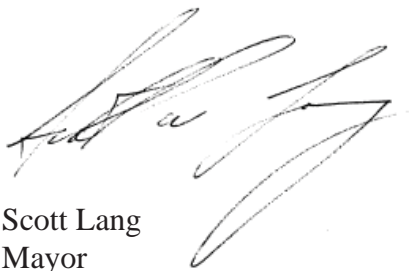
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The Honorable James Inhofe
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

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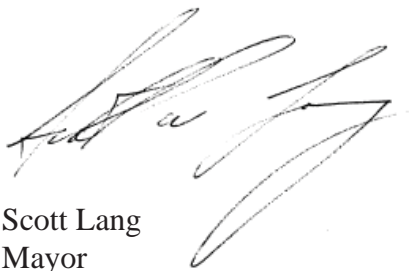
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The Honorable Tom Coburn
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

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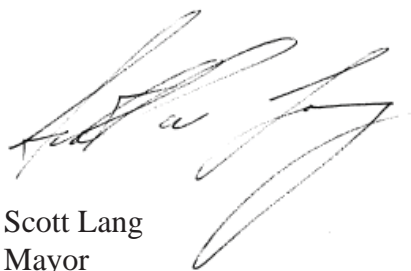
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The Honorable Ron Wyden
223 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

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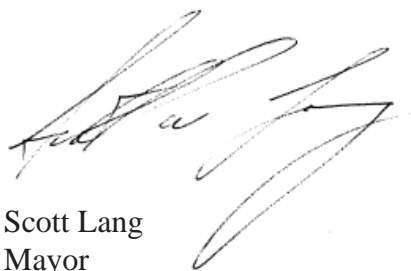
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The Honorable Jeff Merkley
107 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

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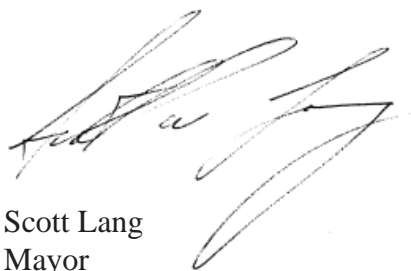
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The Honorable Robert Casey
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

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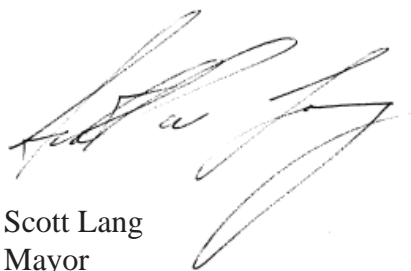
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The Honorable Pat Toomey
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Dear Senator Toomey:

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The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) from expending funds to create new regulatory systems under its highly-controversial National Catch Share Program, a regime that has created regulations that are crippling the livelihoods of ground fisherman in the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England and Gulf of Mexico.

Of the 500 groundfishing vessels in Massachusetts only 253 were active in the first five months of 2010. Vessels formerly in operation are now sitting at the dock. The loss of jobs in our region has been devastating to local economies. The implementation of Amendment 16 has done nothing to slow the deterioration of New England's fishing ports; on the contrary it has accelerated consolidation. As of December, the economic pressure to consolidate operations deriving from per-boat fishing limits resulted in 55 of the 247 boats fishing in New England earning 61 percent of sector revenue. The remaining 192 earned only 39 percent.

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The bipartisan House vote is a sign of the increasing opposition to failed, fiscally unsound programs that have already put thousands of fishermen out of work. With the Obama administration planning to spend \$54 million next year to further ramp up these regulations on a highly questionable scientific basis -- and one that makes industrialized fishing operations win out over the small family-owned businesses that are the economic and social heart of our communities -- the economic costs are too high.

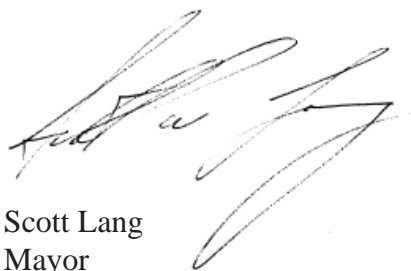
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Despite the sustained efforts of local fishing communities, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, as well as Republican and Democratic lawmakers in the House and Senate, NOAA has refused to use their power under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to allow for the increased, yet scientifically sound, fishing quotas that might allow the program to work. This has left many small fishermen with little choice than to sell their allocation to large entities and close.

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**City of New Bedford
Office of The Mayor**

133 William Street • New Bedford, MA 02740
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**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

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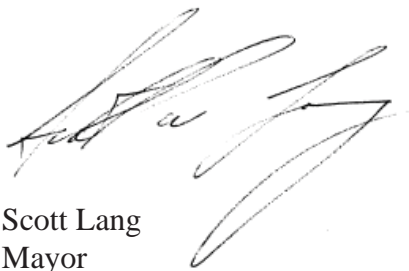
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The Honorable Jack Reed
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

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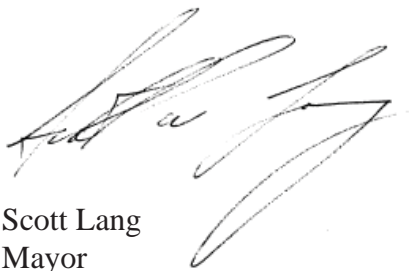
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The Honorable Lindsey Graham
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

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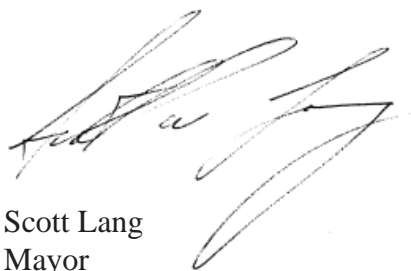
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The Honorable Jim DeMint
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator DeMint:

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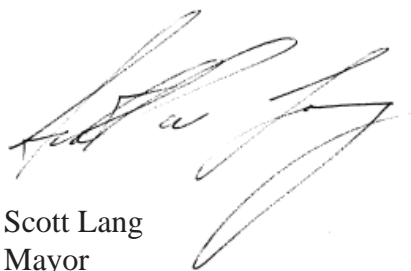
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The Honorable Tim Johnson
136 Hart Senate Office Building
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Dear Senator Johnson:

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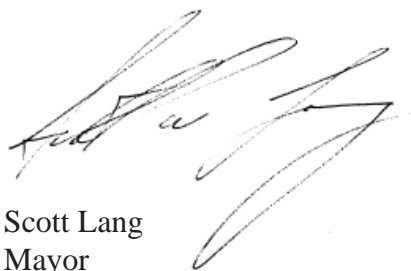
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The Honorable John Thune
493 Russell Senate Office Building
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Dear Senator Thune:

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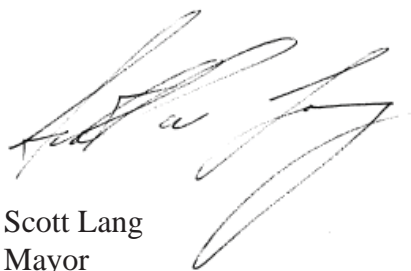
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**City of New Bedford
Office of The Mayor**

133 William Street • New Bedford, MA 02740
Tel (508) 979-1410 • Fax (508) 991-6189



**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Alexander:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) from expending funds to create new regulatory systems under its highly-controversial National Catch Share Program, a regime that has created regulations that are crippling the livelihoods of ground fisherman in the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England and Gulf of Mexico.

Of the 500 groundfishing vessels in Massachusetts only 253 were active in the first five months of 2010. Vessels formerly in operation are now sitting at the dock. The loss of jobs in our region has been devastating to local economies. The implementation of Amendment 16 has done nothing to slow the deterioration of New England's fishing ports; on the contrary it has accelerated consolidation. As of December, the economic pressure to consolidate operations deriving from per-boat fishing limits resulted in 55 of the 247 boats fishing in New England earning 61 percent of sector revenue. The remaining 192 earned only 39 percent.

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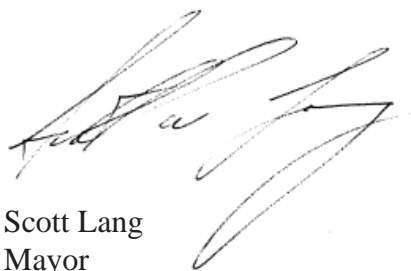
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City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
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The Honorable Bob Corker
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Corker:

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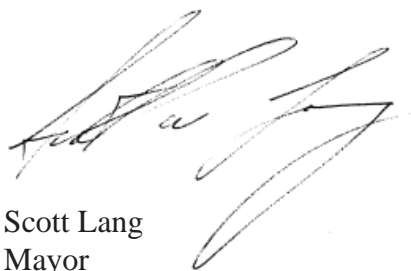
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Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable Kay Hutchinson
284 Russell Renate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hutchinson:

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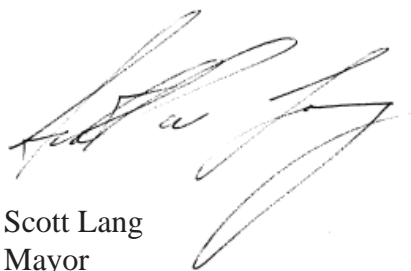
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The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

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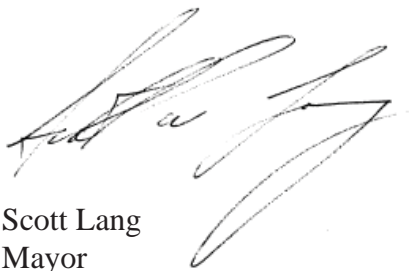
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The Honorable Orrin Hatch
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

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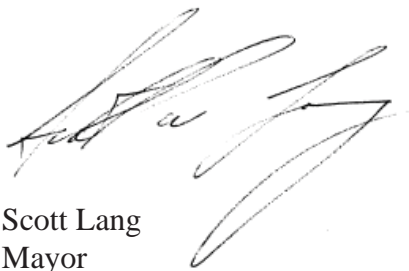
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The Honorable Mike Lee
825 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lee:

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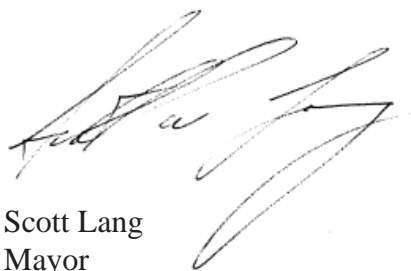
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**City of New Bedford
Office of The Mayor**

133 William Street • New Bedford, MA 02740
Tel (508) 979-1410 • Fax (508) 991-6189



**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) from expending funds to create new regulatory systems under its highly-controversial National Catch Share Program, a regime that has created regulations that are crippling the livelihoods of ground fisherman in the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England and Gulf of Mexico.

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The bipartisan House vote is a sign of the increasing opposition to failed, fiscally unsound programs that have already put thousands of fishermen out of work. With the Obama administration planning to spend \$54 million next year to further ramp up these regulations on a highly questionable scientific basis -- and one that makes industrialized fishing operations win out over the small family-owned businesses that are the economic and social heart of our communities -- the economic costs are too high.

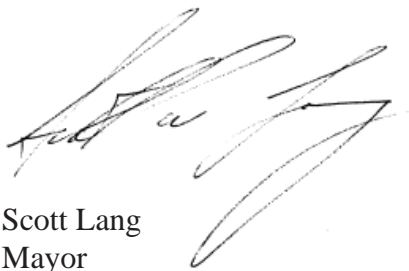
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**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
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The Honorable Bernard Sanders
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

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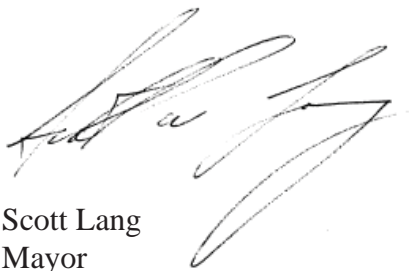
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The Honorable Jim Webb
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Webb:

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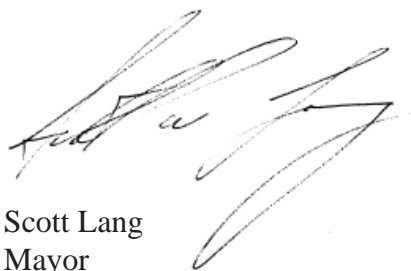
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The Honorable Mark Warner
459A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warner:

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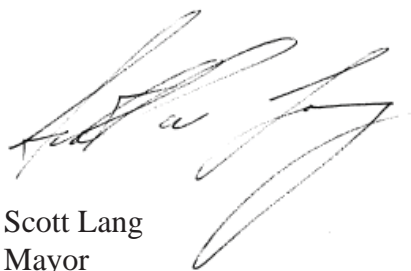
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The Honorable Patty Murray
448 Russell Senate Office Building
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Dear Senator Murray:

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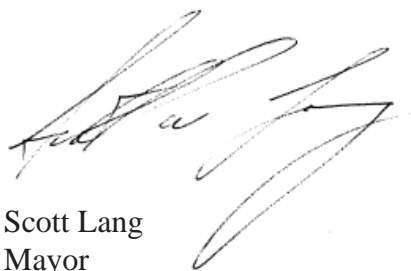
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The Honorable Maria Cantwell
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

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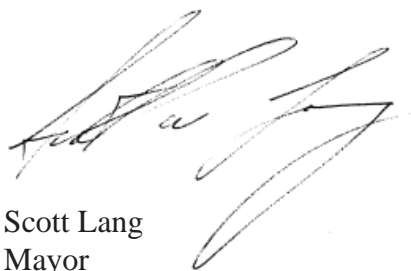
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New Bedford, Massachusetts



Carolyn A. Kirk
Mayor
Gloucester, Massachusetts



**City of New Bedford
Office of The Mayor**

133 William Street • New Bedford, MA 02740
Tel (508) 979-1410 • Fax (508) 991-6189



**City of Gloucester
Office of The Mayor**

City Hall, Nine Dale Avenue • Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel (978) 281-9700 • Fax (978) 281-9738

The Honorable John Rockefeller
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rockefeller:

As the mayors of the port cities of New Bedford and Gloucester, the number one fishing port and the oldest fishing port in America, we are writing together to urge your support for retaining Amendment No. 548 to H.R. 1 – the Jones Amendment -- in any final 2011 budget legislation. This bipartisan amendment, authored by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina and supported by Congressmen Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Frank Pallone of New Jersey, is a vital move needed to support fishing industry jobs and families that are the backbone of the nation's coastal communities.

The amendment would prevent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) from expending funds to create new regulatory systems under its highly-controversial National Catch Share Program, a regime that has created regulations that are crippling the livelihoods of ground fisherman in the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England and Gulf of Mexico.

Of the 500 groundfishing vessels in Massachusetts only 253 were active in the first five months of 2010. Vessels formerly in operation are now sitting at the dock. The loss of jobs in our region has been devastating to local economies. The implementation of Amendment 16 has done nothing to slow the deterioration of New England's fishing ports; on the contrary it has accelerated consolidation. As of December, the economic pressure to consolidate operations deriving from per-boat fishing limits resulted in 55 of the 247 boats fishing in New England earning 61 percent of sector revenue. The remaining 192 earned only 39 percent.

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The bipartisan House vote is a sign of the increasing opposition to failed, fiscally unsound programs that have already put thousands of fishermen out of work. With the Obama administration planning to spend \$54 million next year to further ramp up these regulations on a highly questionable scientific basis -- and one that makes industrialized fishing operations win out over the small family-owned businesses that are the economic and social heart of our communities -- the economic costs are too high.

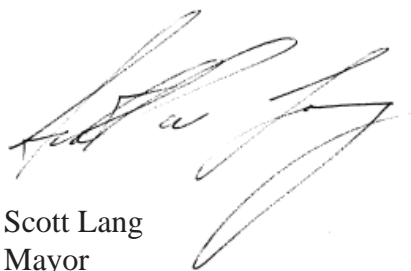
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The Honorable Joe Manchin
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

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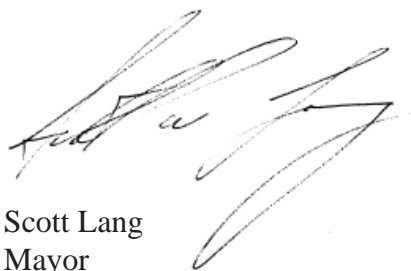
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The Honorable Herb Kohl
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kohl:

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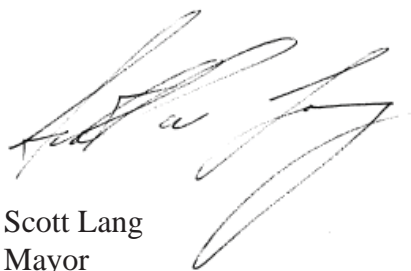
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The Honorable Ron Johnson
2 Russell Courtyard
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Johnson:

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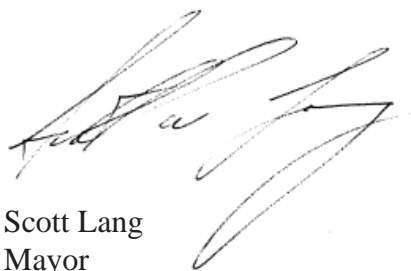
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The Honorable Mike Enzi
379A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Enzi:

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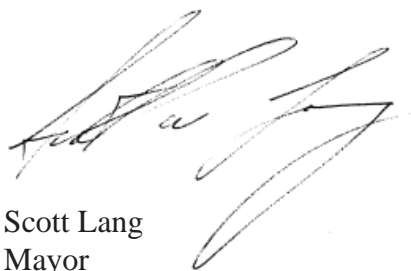
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The Honorable John Barasso
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Barasso:

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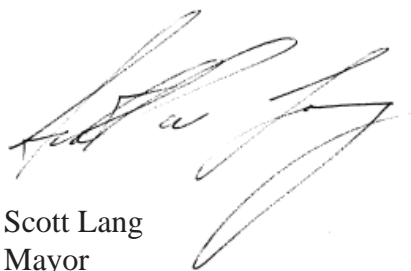
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