



July 2009

The Honorable Frank Lautenberg
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Bldg. – Suite 324
Washington, DC 20510
Fax 202 228-4054

Dear Senator Lautenberg:

I am writing you as a New Jersey Fisherman in support of S.1255, the long-awaited Senate companion bill to the Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act of 2009 (HR 1584) introduced earlier this year by our friend, Congressman Frank Pallone. S. 1255 was introduced by New York Senator Charles Schumer. I urge you to give serious consideration to our current situation back at home with regard to access to healthy coastal fisheries.

The last reauthorization of the Magnuson Stevens Act in 2007 has arbitrary deadlines on rebuilding that are not based in science for rebuilding stocks. This has restricted access for anglers and affected those businesses who rely on a robust recreational fishery. This federal law has to be amended or these businesses will continue perish while anglers sit at the dock and fish stocks maintain their continued growth to unprecedented levels.

Senator, we need your support on this legislation, and your help in passing the Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act of 2009 immediately. Congress currently allows for flexibility when dealing with *clean water* and *clean air* efforts, so as not to completely shut down industries or eliminate jobs, while continuing to make progress with these two very important issues. However, when Congress deals with fisheries and fishermen, they generally find it is okay to shut down fisheries on account of arbitrary deadlines, with no regard for the human resource. As a fisherman, I do not agree with this management policy.

I respectfully request that you support S.1255, and by doing so help support New Jersey's and America's recreational fishing community.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name

Address

Address