

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515  
March 11, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

As leaders of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, we urge you to include recreation, especially recreational fishing and boating, as a national priority in the Ocean Policy Task Force's final report, as directed in your June 12, 2009, memorandum on "National Policy for the Oceans, our Coasts and the Great Lakes". As active anglers and on behalf of the nation's 60 million anglers, we recommend that you ensure recreational fishing is recognized and promoted as a distinct ocean, coastal and Great Lakes activity that has a significant impact on employment, the economy and the quality of life in this country.

Recreational anglers contribute over \$125 billion annually to the American economy, and support over a million jobs. Recreational fishing is a vital part of this nation's heritage, and we urge you to ensure that the legacy of this family-friendly outdoor activity is available for future generations to enjoy.

It is safe to say that recreational anglers provided the lion's share of funding for fisheries conservation and management in this country through the highly successful Sportfish Restoration Fund, originally established in 1950 as the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act. Since that time, this fund has been amended and now, as the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, serves as the backbone for conservation funding in the United States. This critical funding pool supports a diverse set of important state and national recreational fishing and boating programs.

We are conservationists who love being in the outdoors. We firmly believe that responsibly-managed and regulated activities such as recreational fishing deserve full consideration and incorporation in the administration's Ocean and Great Lakes Management Policy. Providing the angling public with access to public resources is no less important than conserving those resources. Therefore, we are interested in hearing how the Ocean Policy Task Force intends to safeguard recreational fishing, one of this nation's most important outdoor activities now and for generations to come, in its final report.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



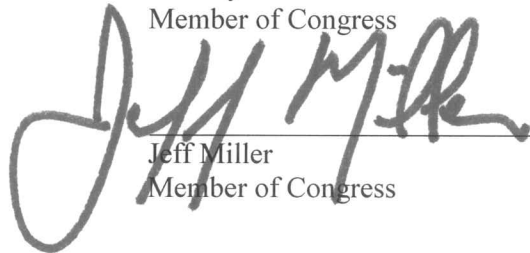
Dan Boren  
Member of Congress



Mike Ross  
Member of Congress



Paul Ryan  
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller  
Member of Congress

cc: Nancy Sutley, Chair CEQ