

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
U.S. Office of Management and Budget
725 17th St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney,

We write to express our support for your recent request for supplemental appropriations to aid in relief efforts and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters that have affected communities across our country, and to ask that additional supplemental requests include funding for outstanding disaster declarations. The catastrophic wildfires burning across western states, coupled with the unprecedented sequence of hurricanes registered at category 4 and above, have devastated American communities from Washington state to Puerto Rico. It is critical that we provide the necessary resources to support these communities' continued efforts to respond to ongoing disasters, mitigate damage, and begin to rebuild and recover.

As the Administration continues to evaluate the total need of all the communities impacted by natural disasters, we urge you to include the needs of those communities affected by commercial fisheries disasters from Alaska to California. Since 2014, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has determined that nine commercial fisheries failures were caused by unpredictable and unavoidable natural events, including persistent harmful algal blooms and the anomalous warm "blob" that caused severe economic hardship in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California. Ignoring our commitment to these rural and Tribal communities would be irresponsible at best.

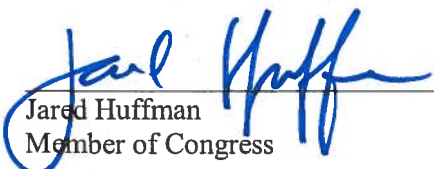
The rural and Tribal fishing dependent communities affected by these disasters are still struggling to recover from the severe economic impacts. However, it is not just the livelihoods of those directly engaged in the fishery that have been threatened. Seafood processors, bait and tackle shops, motels, restaurants, gas stations, and a host of small business have all felt the impacts of these fisheries closures. These communities have been waiting for a year or more and are desperate for some assistance to help recover from these disasters.

As you know, H.R. 3354, the *Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act*, which passed the House of Representatives in September, includes \$20 million for fisheries disaster assistance. As we continue to assist those who have been so severely impacted by our unprecedented national disasters, we must not forget those who have suffered no less under previous disaster declarations. We strongly urge you to work with these communities to ascertain and fully address the unmet economic damages caused by these past disasters as an additional supplemental request is developed.

Sincerely,


Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress


Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress


Denny Heck
Member of Congress


Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress


Don Young
Member of Congress


Dave Reichert
Member of Congress

CC: Secretary Wilbur Ross