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Margaret Henderson  
*Campaign Manager*

January 28, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We at [Stronger America Through Seafood](#) (SATS) wish to congratulate you on your inauguration as our nation's 46<sup>th</sup> President! With this letter, we ask that you prioritize **domestic seafood production through aquaculture** as part of your Administration's oceans and climate policies and as a means to build back a stronger, more resilient America.

SATS is an industry coalition whose mission it is to promote federal policies that will **drive increased production of healthful, sustainable, and affordable U.S. seafood**, including through **aquaculture**. SATS brings together leaders from across the seafood supply chain including Cargill (MN), Sysco (TX), Red Lobster (FL), Pacific Seafoods (OR), High Liner (NH), Innovasea (MA), Fortune Fish (IL), Blue Ocean (HI), Pacifico Aquaculture (CA) and others.

Aquaculture presents a unique opportunity to build an American seafood future that can bring us through this challenging time and support a diverse workforce, enhance sustainable ecosystems and guarantee healthful, locally-sourced protein for American consumers.

As America begins to rebuild from the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing America's seafood supply through aquaculture will have benevolent rippling effects throughout many areas of the country. Increased aquaculture production will increase demand for American-grown crops, such as soybeans, corn and peas, which can be used in fish feed, and will open up new markets to heartland farmers while lessening dependence on the uncertainty of foreign trade relationships.

By prioritizing domestic aquaculture in your Administration's oceans and climate policies, you will support the growth of an American seafood community that is resilient to economic and climate changes and is part of a holistic approach to a greater sustainable food strategy.

The U.S. seafood community has long understood the importance of supplementing wild-capture fisheries with farm-raised seafood – without it, we simply cannot meet the rising global demand for healthful animal protein. Research shows that food system diversification will be vital to ensure a more stable food supply in the face of the climate crisis. Aquaculture can produce nutritious food with little reliance on scarce land and freshwater resources and must be a part of this diversification strategy.

For the U.S. to continue to expand the aquaculture industry and tap into the full economic and environmental potential that aquaculture can provide, we ask that you continue the work of numerous previous Administrations, both Republican and Democrat, who sought to clarify aquaculture regulatory and management activities across federal agencies.

This federal regulatory clarity is critical for American-based companies to invest locally and to bring back home the many benefits of global, sustainable seafood production.

Now perhaps more than ever, we need both sustainable, local food AND new job opportunities for all Americans. Aquaculture can fill both those needs while also limiting impacts on our global environment. **We respectfully request a meeting with you and your Climate and/or Oceans Policy teams in the very near future to discuss this process in more detail and to determine where we can be of greatest support to your Administration on the broader issues of seafood supply.**

We look forward to working with you to bring home the benefits that increased production of sustainable seafood will have for all Americans.

Respectfully,

**Bill DiMento**  
High Liner Foods  
Portsmouth, NH

**Stephanie Quah**  
Cargill Aqua Nutrition  
Wayzata, MN

**Tony Dal Ponte**  
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**Michael Cigliano**  
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Santa Monica, CA

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Sea Best, Inc./Beaver Street Fisheries  
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Ocean Era, LLC  
Kona, HI

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Zeigler Bros., Inc.  
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Early Charm Ventures  
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**Omar Alfi**  
Pacífico Aquaculture  
San Diego, CA

cc: Governor Gina Raimondo, State of Rhode Island  
The Honorable Thomas Vilsack