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July 8, 2020

The Honorable Roger Wicker
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wicker,

On behalf of Stronger America Through Seafood (SATS), we thank you for your continued leadership and unwavering support for the U.S. seafood community. During these trying times, our nation and our industry need public servants like you who provide us with clarity in the present and vision for the future. Your recent legislative efforts to ensure a consistent future supply of American seafood are great examples of this leadership in action.

We appreciate working with you towards reintroduction of the Advancing the Quality and Understanding of American Aquaculture (AQUAA) Act, legislation which eliminates regulatory uncertainty around U.S. offshore aquaculture and clears a major obstacle to increasing America's ability to grow more of its own sustainable, affordable and healthful seafood. Congressional authorization of a predictable regulatory process for offshore aquaculture is SATS' number one legislative priority and we are grateful for your deliberative efforts on this matter.

To address immediate challenges facing the seafood community, we also recognize the importance of S. 4012, the Real Economic Support that Acknowledges Unique Restaurant Assistance Needed to Survive (RESTAURANTS) Act. Nearly two-thirds of American seafood consumption occurs at restaurants, and with COVID-related closures of dining establishments nationwide, the seafood community has been deeply impacted. As Congress and the Administration develop comprehensive ways to recover our nation's seafood economy, providing immediate financial assistance to vital components of the supply chain, like restaurants, is a great step in the right direction.

These important measures, the AQUAA Act and the RESTAURANTS Act, are two examples of ways in which your leadership has been critical to the American seafood community. These bills protect and enhance Americans' access to high quality seafood and boost the country's economy by ensuring certainty for the future of American seafood production.

We will continue to offer guidance and insight on behalf of the American seafood community, and we appreciate your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Bill Di Mento
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