

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 4, 2014

Honorable Doc Hastings  
Chairman  
Natural Resources Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are troubled by the failure of Committee Republicans to seek input from - or otherwise include - Democratic Members in the development of the draft Magnuson-Stevens Act legislation before the Committee today. At an oversight hearing last September, our Ranking Member personally requested that you work collaboratively with him to craft legislation reauthorizing this important law. In November, a number of Committee Democrats wrote to you requesting a hearing on Western Pacific fisheries issues, which were not addressed in any of the oversight hearings called by the Majority last year. The Majority did not consider either of these requests, and instead has proposed legislation that many of us see as a step away from responsible fishery management and stewardship of other important marine resources. Today's hearing follows the pattern of others this Congress in failing to include a diversity of perspectives on fisheries management, even bringing back a number of individuals and organizations from whom we have already heard. The economic and conservation issues at stake in reauthorizing this statute are too significant to proceed in such a one-sided fashion.

Fisheries management and the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act have not been partisan issues traditionally, and we are disappointed that they seem to have become just that in this Committee. In order to provide more balanced and factual information regarding the current state of fisheries management in the United States, pursuant to Rule XI of the Rules of the House and Rule 4 of the Rules of the Committee on Natural Resources, the undersigned Members of the Committee hereby request a further hearing on reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, during which witnesses selected by the Minority shall be allowed to testify.

Sincerely,

  
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Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member

Raul M. Grijalva

Rush Holt

Alan Lowenthal

Jon J. Nazaretano

Card Ste. Ponce

Madeline J. Randall

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