

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shaheen and Ranking Member Moran:

As you work to draft the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to include robust funding for the Young Fishermen's Grant Program, authorized in the Young Fishermen's Development Act (P.L.116-289). This new program, which will be carried out by the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the National Sea Grant Office, is intended to provide grants for training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for new commercial fishermen.

The United States is among the leading fishing nations in the world, generating more than \$200 billion in sales and supporting 1.7 million jobs per year. As senators from states dependent on commercial fishing to sustain our local economies, we recognize the immense returns federal investment in this program can facilitate.

Many incoming fishermen and fishing communities face increasing challenges, which are contributing to several shifts in demographics of commercial fishermen. In some regions, commercial fisheries have seen an increase by 10 years of age or more over the past generation. Studies suggest this "graying of the fleet," along with shifts in technology and access, has led to an increase in financial capital, skills, and risk required to successfully enter the fishing industry.

There are varying efforts in regions around the country to address the increasing challenges young fishermen face, but there has been no cohesive effort at the federal level. The Young Fishermen's Grant Program creates a national effort to support education and training for America's young fishermen by leveraging Sea Grant, an existing program. Next generation fishermen face substantial challenges in getting a successful start in the fishing business—this program will help them build skills for success.

For these reasons, and to ensure the program is established, we urge you to consider robust funding for this program when you are appropriating FY22 funding.

Sincerely,



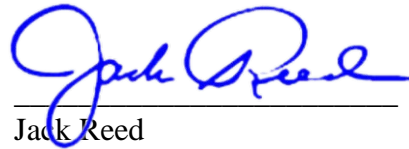
Dan Sullivan
U.S. Senator



Ed Markey
U.S. Senator



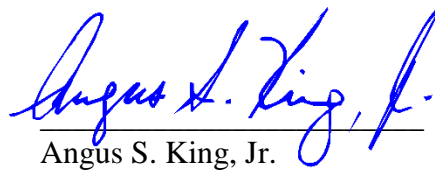
Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senator



Jack Reed
U.S. Senator



Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
U.S. Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
U.S. Senator



Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator



Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senator