



GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

May 29, 2014

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the Senate
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

The Administration is pleased to forward for your consideration the enclosed draft legislation, a bill –

To implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes.

This draft legislation will implement two international fisheries conventions relating to the Pacific Ocean –

- 1) the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean (North Pacific Fisheries Resources Convention, or NPFRC), done at Tokyo, Japan, on February 24, 2012, and signed by the United States on May 2, 2012; and
- 2) the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean (South Pacific Fishery Resources Convention, or SPFRC), done at Auckland, New Zealand, on November 14, 2009, and which entered into force on August 24, 2012.

On April 22, 2013, President Obama transmitted the NPFRC and SPFRC to the United States Senate, recommending that it give its advice and consent to ratification. On April 3, 2014, the Senate gave its advice and consent to ratification of the NPFRC and the SPFRC. The NPFRC establishes a regional fisheries management organization through which Parties will cooperate to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean while protecting the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur. The SPFRC establishes a similar regional fisheries management organization for the South Pacific from Australia to South America.

The Administration has reviewed both Agreements and determined that implementation will result in the effective management of high seas fisheries in the North Pacific and South Pacific Ocean. The Administration's review also indicated that, because they are not self-

executing, legislation is necessary to implement the NPFRC and SPFRC. We have drafted the enclosed legislation to address this need.

The draft legislation provides the United States, primarily through the Department of Commerce, with authority to administer the North Pacific Fisheries Resources Convention Implementation Act and the South Pacific Fishery Resources Convention Implementation Act and associated regulations. It further authorizes the Department of Commerce to conduct fishing operations and biological experiments for purposes of scientific investigation, issue fishing permits to U.S. vessels to fish in the specified Convention Areas, and request and use, among other things, the services, personnel, and equipment of other federal agencies, foreign governments or agencies, or international intergovernmental organizations in the conduct of scientific, research and other programs under both of these Acts. Also included, for your reference, are accompanying documents, a Statement of Purpose and Need and a Section-by-Section Analysis.

The provisions in the NPFRC and SPFRC and the proposed implementing legislation will advance U.S. interests in the effective management of high seas fisheries. For this reason, the Administration recommends that the proposed bill be sent to the appropriate committees for early and favorable consideration and that it be enacted.

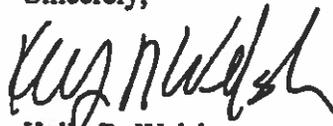
The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 provides that revenue and direct spending legislation cannot, in the aggregate, increase the on-budget deficit. If such legislation increases the on-budget deficit and that increase is not offset by the end of the Congressional session, a sequestration must be ordered. This proposal would affect direct spending and revenues, but the effects of this proposal would net to zero; therefore, it is in compliance with the Statutory PAYGO Act.

The effect of this draft bill on the deficit is:

Fiscal Years (dollars in millions)												
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Revenues	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mandatory Outlays	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Deficit Impact	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to transmittal of this proposal and that its enactment would be in accord with the program of the President. If you have any questions, please contact me or Margaret Cummisky, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly R. Welsh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and a long, sweeping tail.

Kelly R. Welsh

Enclosures

Identical Letters Sent To:

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-7020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6501

The Honorable Eric Cantor
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jay Rockefeller
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Menendez
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Edward R. Royce
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510