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April 21, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

As you are no doubt aware, the Sacramento River Fall Chinook salmon population has been decimated, resulting for the first time in history in the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) recommendation to close commercial and recreational fishing for this species. Additionally, populations of Columbia River Chinook and Coho are at near record-low levels, and the Council has significantly reduced fishing for these fish as well. The economic impact on our three states totals \$290 million and the loss of over 4,200 jobs.

As the federally designated conservation thresholds will not be met this year, our states have also taken action to eliminate recreational salmon fishing for this species in state waters. California has further had to eliminate inland recreational fishing in the Sacramento River system. This is a West Coast-wide issue and the three states are united in working with you on behalf of our fishing communities.

This has had a catastrophic effect on both commercial and recreational fishermen and women, and the people, businesses and communities that they support. As a result, we have requested that Commerce Secretary Gutierrez declare a federal fishery resource disaster pursuant to Section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986, and a commercial fishery failure under Section 312a of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976.

Due to the particularly difficult impacts resulting from this closure in the State of California, the state has declared a state of emergency likely to exceed the capabilities of California to handle. Oregon and Washington have also mobilized state agencies to work with the affected individuals and businesses to ensure that vital economic assistance reaches them.

We turn to you now to assist our states in obtaining emergency appropriations to help address this economic emergency. We cannot sustain the affected families, businesses or communities without this much-needed federal assistance.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
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Thank you very much for your assistance in addressing this very significant issue for our states. Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us if you require additional information or our further assistance in meeting this request.

Sincerely,

/s/
Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California

/s/
Theodore R. Kulongoski
Governor of Oregon

/s/
Christine O. Gregoire
Governor of Washington

cc: California State Congressional Delegation
Oregon State Congressional Delegation
Washington State Congressional Delegation