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July 10, 2018

Dear Texas Congressional and Senate Delegation,

I'm writing to you today on behalf of Pappas Restaurants, headquarters to let you know that H.R. 200 (the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act) is bad for our business, bad for our fishermen, and bad for Texas.

Pappas Restaurants is a family owned and operated company that is proud to call Texas our home. We depend on sustainable fisheries and a stable business plan to ensure that we can continue to provide Texas and the country with the highest quality dining experience.

We've reviewed H.R. 200 and we believe that this legislation hurts the stability of the marketplace. This legislation is clearly controversial, widely opposed by seafood-related businesses throughout the Gulf, and directly harms our business and our ability to serve American red snapper at our restaurants.

H.R. 200 restricts the options of fishery managers, creates exemptions from science-based limits, and forces managers to pick winners and losers in a never-ending series of allocation battles. It pits private anglers against commercial fishermen and seafood suppliers. It jeopardizes the health of the fish stocks that the market depends on.

We understand that H.R. 200 now includes a number of amendments, including a manager's amendment. These amendments do not salvage this bad bill, and in fact, some make this bill even worse. One amendment in particular, Congressman Graves' amendment (#6), would unfairly target commercial fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico (and South Atlantic) with additional taxes and would strip us of our representation on the management bodies that are entrusted with managing these fisheries. And, to add insult to injury, these would only apply to the Gulf and South Atlantic – why are the other regions in the U.S. exempt from these punitive measures?

Please consider us and vote NO on H.R. 200 today.

Harris J. Pappas

