



May 20, 2015

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Restaurant Association, we are writing to express our support for H.R. 1335, the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act.

Founded in 1919, the National Restaurant Association is the leading business association for the restaurant and foodservice industry. The industry is comprised of 990,000 restaurant and foodservice outlets employing 13.5 million people who serve more than 130 million guests daily.<sup>1</sup>

The National Restaurant Association supports reauthorization of this important legislation to ensure a sustainable, thriving domestic seafood industry. In particular, we are pleased that the legislation does not include provisions granting exclusive management authority to the five Gulf states over the sustainably-managed, commercial red snapper fishery. Instead, this legislation works to rebuild depleted fish stocks, streamlines the management process, and ensures the development of a reporting and data collection program for the red snapper fishery.

The preservation of this fishery is important to the restaurant and foodservice industry. Restaurants across the country are turning more and more to locally-caught, sustainable seafood to meet increasing customer demand. Gulf red snapper is a key component of many restaurants' menus nationwide and without it, chefs may be forced to turn to other alternatives to continue meeting customers' needs. Congress must preserve the commercial red snapper fishery and access for all Americans when moving forward with this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Roehl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" and the last name "Roehl" clearly legible.

Dan Roehl  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
National Restaurant Association

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<sup>1</sup> 2014 Restaurant Industry Forecast, National Restaurant Association.