

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 28, 2016

Mr. Daniel Calleja Crespo  
Directorate-General for Environment  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Dear Mr. Crespo,

As the Congressional Delegation from Massachusetts, the state responsible for the largest export of American lobsters to the European Union (EU), we write to express our serious concerns with the decision by the EU's Scientific Forum to move forward with Sweden's proposal to list American lobster as an invasive alien species. We again write to emphasize that the potential listing and subsequent ban on the importation of American lobster to the EU is not scientifically justified and would have a significant economic impact in Massachusetts and throughout New England.

Isolated reports of individual American lobsters found in European waters do not constitute the invasion of an alien species. This possible designation is not merited because, as indicated in the data provided to the Scientific Forum by the United States and Canada, there is no evidence that American lobster can reproduce in waters as warm as those of coastal Europe. Moreover, the Swedish risk assessment failed to demonstrate that interbreeding between European and American lobsters produces fertile offspring. In light of these facts, an outright ban of the importation of live American lobster to the EU is an excessive and unscientific response.

The transatlantic lobster trade with the EU exceeded \$200 million last year, with \$125 million of live lobsters exported to the EU from Massachusetts alone. This commercial relationship with the EU is an important source of income for the Commonwealth's 1,169 permitted commercial lobstermen, in addition to lobster dealers, vessel and trap manufacturers, restaurants, and other shore side businesses.

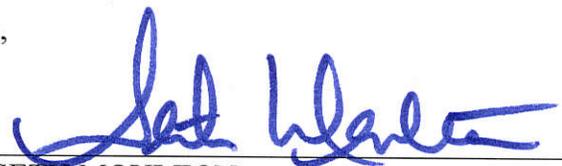
We have the upmost respect for the EU's desire to develop sound environmental policy based on the best available science, but we do not believe that the evidence presented by Sweden supports the listing of American lobsters as an invasive alien species. It is our hope that the EU's Scientific Committee will uphold a commitment to making a data-based decision as they consider the potential listing of American lobster as an invasive species.

On behalf of the hardworking men and women of the Massachusetts lobster industry, we appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



EDWARD J. MARKEY  
United States Senator



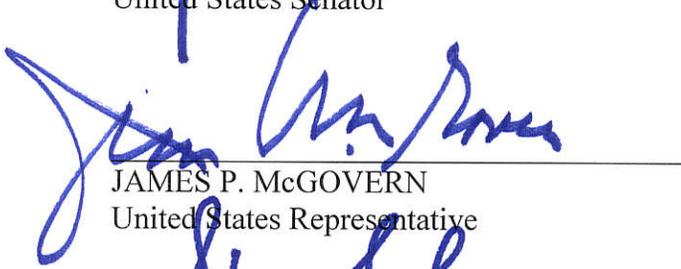
SETH MOULTON  
United States Representative



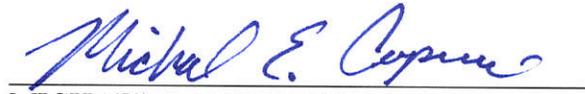
ELIZABETH WARREN  
United States Senator



RICHARD E. NEAL  
United States Representative



JAMES P. McGOVERN  
United States Representative



MICHAEL E. CAPUANO  
United States Representative



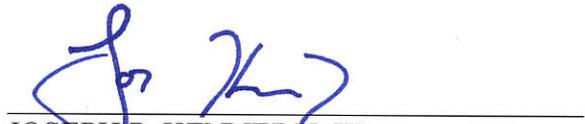
STEPHEN F. LYNCH  
United States Representative



NIKI TSONGAS  
United States Representative



WILLIAM R. KEATING  
United States Representative



JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III  
United States Representative



KATHERINE CLARK  
United States Representative

CC: The Honorable John F. Kerry, Secretary, United States Department of State  
The Honorable Michael Froman, United States Trade Representative  
Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
His Excellency David O'Sullivan, Ambassador of the EU to the United States  
His Excellency Björn Lyrvall, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to the United States