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

June 13, 2013

Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

We support the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) actions to implement the Shark Conservation Act of 2010, which established the U.S. as a leader in global shark conservation and recovery. We recognize and appreciate that NMFS recently extended the public comment period for the proposed implementing rule by three weeks to July 8, 2013. However, we have heard concerns from a large number of stakeholders and believe that an extension of 60 days from the original June 17th deadline is necessary to provide our constituents and interested national organizations adequate time to fully participate in the rulemaking process.

Seven states and three territories have taken the lead in passing regulations to specifically address the sale and trade of shark fins and other shark products within their jurisdictions. We are concerned that the preemption provision in NMFS' draft rule would take away a much-needed tool that states and territories are using to protect and recover dwindling shark populations. In order to fully understand the implications of the preemption provisions in the proposed rule, it is critical for our constituents and interested national organizations to perform a time-consuming legal analysis of each state and territorial law.

It is vital that all stakeholders be afforded an ample opportunity to review and comment on the proposed rule to ensure that shark conservation efforts are implemented fairly. We urge you to extend the comment period by a full 60 days to August 16, 2013. We look forward to your reply.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress

Sam Farr

SAM FARR
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman

JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress

Lois Capps

LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress

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