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**Congress of the United States**  
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March 16, 2001

Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director  
National Marine Sanctuary System  
1305 East-West Highway  
Room 11523  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Basta,

As I'm sure you're aware, the Monterey National Marine Sanctuary will soon be undergoing its mandated review process. As this review proceeds, I encourage you to ensure that all stakeholders in the Sanctuary have a voice in the review, as the original intentions of the creation of the Sanctuary in 1991 call for.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program was created to protect against damage from offshore drilling, mining, dumping and dredging, as well as from point- and non-point-source pollution. Beside providing an ecologically diverse haven for many significant concentrations of living resources, the waters also support a number of socially beneficial human activities. Both resources and users were to derive benefits from the creation of the Monterey National Marine Sanctuary.

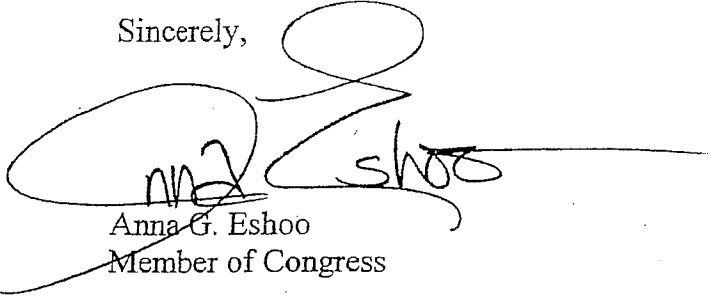
The Sanctuary Program was, in part, an attempt to preserve existing commercial fishing activities. Were it not for the input and support of local fishermen, the NMS would never have been born. Fishermen need to be included in the review process in more than just an advisory role. Commercial fishermen supported the creation of the Monterey NMS in large part because it promised to have a beneficial effect on maintaining healthy and productive fish stocks.

The review process must take into account the socioeconomic impact of management decisions. The Sanctuaries are supported, are upheld, and impact - in a very real way - local fishermen, harbors, and our communities.

The review of the Monterey National Marine Sanctuary must be a legitimate and measured process. It needs to have the input and support of all participants in the Sanctuary. This is a long and important procedure, and it would be a tragedy if we were to miss a step or turn a deaf ear to

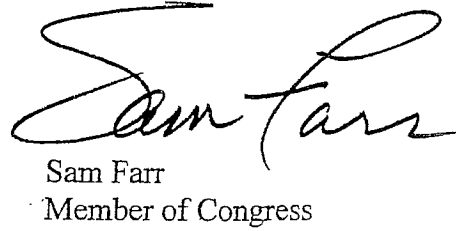
a knowledgeable voice. The outcome of the review process needs to be acceptable to all stakeholders in the Sanctuary Program.

Sincerely,



Handwritten signature of Anna G. Eshoo, consisting of a large loop followed by the letters 'A G Eshoo'.

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Handwritten signature of Sam Farr, written in a cursive style.

Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

cc: Scott B. Gudes, Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere