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SERVING BALDWIN, CLARKE,  
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HOUSE COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
RULES

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

April 7, 2017

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science  
H-310 The Capitol

Dear Chairman Culberson:

As you and the Committee draft a funding bill for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2017, I urge you to include language from previous appropriations bills that extends the boundaries of state waters in the Gulf of Mexico to nine nautical miles for Red Snapper fishing.

There continues to be serious concerns about the ability of the federal government to adequately manage the Red Snapper fishery in the Gulf. Efforts remain under way to find a long-term legislative solution to improve the way we gather data and information on the Red Snapper population and landings. These efforts also include a permanent extension of state waters out to nine nautical miles for Red Snapper fishing, which would bring parity to all the Gulf states.

While these efforts continue, it is vitally important the Committee once again include a provision allowing for state waters to be extended. Without the inclusion of this provision, there would be great uncertainty among fishermen and access to the abundant Red Snapper fishery would be further reduced.

Red Snapper fishing is about more than just the fishermen. The issue is of critical importance for the economies of coastal communities all along the Gulf Coast, including communities in my district. Ultimately, I urge the Committee to once again include this provision in any Appropriations bill as we continue working toward a permanent, long-term solution.

I appreciate your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress