



The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
H-107 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Democratic Whip
148 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Representative McCarthy and Representative Hoyer,

On behalf of our 19,272 members, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network strongly urges you to oppose any legislation, including H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, that would undermine the conservation provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act). Our members rely on healthy, abundant fish populations, especially of Atlantic sturgeon, American shad and striped bass and any legislation that would weaken their management should not move forward in this Congress.

H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would increase the risk of overfishing and threaten the progress we've made on rebuilding vulnerable fish populations. They would undermine years of strong science-based management that is helping stabilize fishing businesses and coastal communities.

These bills would extend the timelines for plans to rebuild vulnerable fish populations, delaying when fishermen would benefit from a fully healthy stock. They would exempt fish populations from the use of science-based annual catch limits designed to prevent overfishing. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is helping to end fishing at unsustainable rates and put the sturgeon, shad and striped bass on the road to recovery. The signs of success for these and bigger fish dispersed throughout a broader range—are evidence that strong fisheries management can work.

The protections that the Magnuson Stevens Acts provide result in jobs and economic stability through licensing and tourism. It has been determined that in the Upper Delaware alone, wild trout fishing resulted in \$17.69 million for local business revenue in 1996, that there was \$7.25 million of spending by anglers in Delaware County, New York alone, and that about 41% of this spending remained in the local communities surrounding the tail water fisheries area (Hancock, Deposit, Walton, and Village of Downsville). The cycling of this 41% of angler expenditures in the region ultimately results in \$29.98 million in local economic activity. Research has also shown that revenues generated by anglers in this region supported 348 jobs with total wages of \$3.65 million; and provided \$719,350 in local taxes. Other research has shown that multiple towns in the New York reaches of the Delaware River Watershed are benefiting from the clean water and resulting healthy fish populations found in tributary streams.

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The Beaverkill and Willowemoc Rivers are credited with providing towns such as Roscoe and Livingston Manor with \$10 million in annual expenditures from their sport fishery. Friends of the Upper Delaware have reported that the world famous upper Delaware River is a dynamic tourism and economic engine that has not yet reached its potential. They estimate that fly-fishing in the region could generate \$58 million per year in economic activity, creating new jobs with virtually no infrastructure or environmental threat, for which there is already a trained work force and where control would remain local.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network urges you to oppose H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023, and any other legislation that would undermine the conservation requirements that have been critical to the success of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maya K. van Rossum" followed by a horizontal line.

Maya van Rossum
the Delaware Riverkeeper