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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 the Galveston Maritime Business Association, we strongly 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 association expects Congress to ensure our oceans, including the Gulf of Mexico, to continue the rebuilding of healthy fisheries, especially the Gulf Coast Red Snapper, and any legislation that would weaken its 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 has already put Red Snapper on the road to recovery proving that strong fisheries management can work.

As a business organization, we understand the importance of a thriving coastal business industry in our community, and a healthy and sustainable fisheries management program is key to the success of that economy. H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 would weaken the core tenants of the Magnuson Stevens Act. These bills could disrupt the success of coastal businesses along the Gulf Coast. In fact, NOAA Fisheries estimated that the success of rebuilding all overfished U.S. populations – as a result of the Magnuson Stevens Act - will help add \$31 billion to the economy and over 500,000 jobs. Weakening the law will harm the fisheries rebuilding effort, including Red Snapper in the Gulf, as well harm coastal businesses that rely on a healthy fisheries management program.

The Galveston Maritime Business Association 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,

JT Edwards

Executive Director – Galveston Maritime Business Association