



June 6, 2001

The Honorable James V. Hansen
Chairman, Committee on Resources
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6201

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter responds to your request for the views of the Department of Commerce on H.R. 1661, a bill

“to extend indefinitely the authority of the States of Washington, Oregon, and California to manage a Dungeness crab fishery until the effective date of a fishery management plan for the fishery under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act”.

The Department supports H.R. 1661. Public Law No. 105-384, signed into law on November 13, 1998, granted authority to each of the three states to enforce state Dungeness crab management regulations in the Exclusive Economic Zone adjacent to that state. This authority expires on September 30, 2001. Since enactment of this law, the three states have continued to manage Dungeness crab cooperatively under this Act, as they have done since the 1930's.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this letter from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Theodore W. Kassinger".

Theodore W. Kassinger

cc: The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II
The Honorable Wayne Gilchrest
The Honorable Robert Underwood
The Honorable Mike Thompson