



October 30, 2009

Hon. Nick Joe Rahall II, Chairman
Hon. Doc Hastings, Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Rahall and Ranking Member Hastings:

I am writing today as a businessman in American Samoa in support of the American Samoa Protection of Industries Resources and Employment Act, which is currently before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources.

I have reviewed ASPIRE, and I understand that this proposal will increase direct delivery of fish to American Samoa and will lead to tuna processors maintaining a presence on the island.

As President of Bluesky Communications, a competitive wireless service provider in American Samoa, I am very sensitive to the importance of the continued operation of the tuna processors as they are a single major force of business activity on the island. We know that our business results are directly reduced when the main tuna canneries close even for one day. A longer term closure could be more dramatic as the chain reaction reduces the demand of our services across the island. We know that without another source of employment on the island, the permanent closure of the tuna processing plants may additionally cause many of the serving businesses to reduce operations resulting in a significant reduction of business activity in the territory. We are planning for workforce reductions in our own operations while we closely follow the tuna cannery business situation.

The recent Tsunami Relief effort has generated some business activity that is masking these underlying economic realities. To make things more complicated, we are working to recover from the Tsunami but face difficult choices as we rebuild our business in this perilous economic environment. As an American Samoan business person and a US Citizen and American Samoa resident, I urge you to ensure ASPIRE becomes law.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,



Adolfo Montenegro
President & CEO
Bluesky Communications