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November 1, 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

Re: American Samoa Protection of Industries Resources and Employment Act

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.

The tuna processors operating in and the tuna boats coming to American Samoa have been a primary source of revenue for most of the businesses located here. I fear what will happen to the business I work for if StarKist leaves as Chicken of the Sea has. The costs of operating a business – utilities such as energy, water, etc. -- can only be expected to skyrocket with the inflationary pressure that will accompany the departure of the fishing industry. Personal costs for these items will certainly rise as well.

The added difficulty of recovering from the recent tsunami has put many local businesses, and American Samoa in general, in an especially unstable position. As an American Samoan businessman, and an American Samoan resident, I urge you to ensure ASPIRE becomes law.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,



Charles H. Warren