

# Sepp's Paint Shop

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November 3, 2009

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

Chairman Rahall:

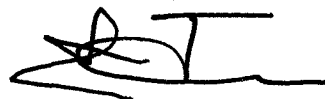
I am writing you as a business owner to express my support for the American Samoa Protection of Industry, Resources, and Employment Act (ASPIRE Act).

The tuna industries survival, is critical to the economy of American Samoa as a whole. The unique local economy created by the operation of the last tuna cannery is largely irreplaceable. However, a variety of factors have caused one of American Samoa's tuna canneries to close on September 2009. The only remaining tuna cannery will likely close without the immediate assistance of the ASPIRE Act.

The closing of the last tuna processing plant will have domino affect throughout the entire economy of the island. If the last remaining processing plant closes, jobs will be lost, shipping cost will rise, and small retailers, like myself, will certainly loose businesses.

The ASPIRE Act will reinvigorate the economy of American Samoa and preserve the island as a cost-effective hub for the tuna industry. Therefore we need your help and support for this vital legislation.

Sincerely,



Sepp H. Steffany