

**TOOLS INC.**  
**(THE TOOL SHOP & BUILDING SUPPLIES)**

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

October 30<sup>th</sup> 2009

Chairman Rahall:

This letter is to show my support for the ASPIRE Act (American Protection of Industry, Resources and Employment Act.)

As a Pacific Island nation, American Samoa is the only island in our region with any real form of commercial industry, thus becoming the only island in our immediate region to not be considered third world by the UN. Tuna processing is the only industry which supports our local economy, not only with the processing of product but the spin off industries it has encouraged.

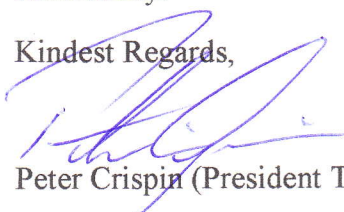
The canneries are the main reason for a consistent and economical shipping service to American Samoa. Should Star Kist become non competitive and chose to leave American Samoa, the cost of shipping will rise significantly along with how many vessels are able to service American Samoa from the West Coast of the US. In a severely shrinking economy it will cause massive inflation, goods and products supplied from the United States of America will become a trickle as the competitive edge will shift to New Zealand and Australia and the Far East for our goods, food and services.

As a supplier of lumber, plywood, builders hardware and other products from the US, (approx \$3.5 million a year) this will shift to other markets in the Southern Hemisphere. Local taxes will suffer and unemployment will go through the roof as the island economy collapses. The impact would not be so severe if there was an alternative industry to expand and encourage but this does not exist.

Politically, this will put us in a very explosive position as the American Samoa Government, being the only employer left, would leave us with the fact of, whoever controls the government will control the jobs, which in turn controls the vote. This situation exists now but is tempered by a fairly strong business sector. That will disappear.

In closing, if Star Kist, as the lone cannery left here, should close, I have no doubt that from my business perspective I would anticipate a loss of at least half of the fifty plus jobs my businesses provide to the community.

Kindest Regards,

  
Peter Crispin (President Tools Inc.: Industrial Gases Inc. and PAL Inc.)