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CONGRESSMAN ROB SIMMONS
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SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
CHAIRMAN

Mr. Philip C. Spiller, Director
Office of Seafood Safety
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Food and Drug Administration
Room 3D-006 Harvey W. Wiley Federal Bldg.
5100 Paint Branch Parkway
College Park, MD 20740-3835

RE: [DOCKET NO. 2004D-0510]

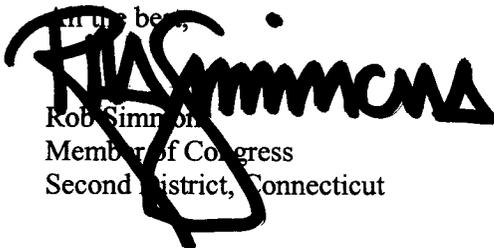
Dear Mr. Spiller:

I am writing in support of the lobster industry's request for a 90-day extension of the comment period on your proposed transfer of the EU Health Certificate Program to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The export of live lobsters to Europe is a multi-million dollar business and one of the leading exporters in the U.S., Garbo Lobster, is located in my district. I'm concerned that the proposed referral program could create a severe economic hardship for Garbo and other export companies. The ability to obtain the necessary EU health certificates when needed is critical to the success of this business.

Because of the potential economic impact of your proposal I believe a 90-day extension of the comment period is appropriate. This extension will provide the industry with an opportunity to carefully review the legal basis and practical implications of your proposal and submit appropriate comments.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

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Rob Simmons
Member of Congress
Second District, Connecticut