To: Barrack H. Obama, President of the United States of America

From: Clayton Doerr, Citizen, Avid Angler, and Concerned Individual

Re: Recent closure of fishery (e.g. Snapper/Grouper from North Carolina to South Florida)

Dear President Obama,

One particular subject of your address to the Nation concerning employment throughout America and of course, the economic impact on our people who depend on their jobs for a mere existence, struck a point with me that needed addressing. When you mentioned a nominally small company that was ready to employ 1400 people, the number involved is really quite small compared to the loss of jobs that were directly effected by the decisions of the SAFMC, NOAA, and the Department of Commerce, to close the East Coast of the South Atlantic Fishery area for the catch of the many variety of Snapper and Grouper. I would like to see you make an Executive order to rescind that decision based on the fact that it would put 50,000 plus people back into gainful employment immediately. Having said that, allow me to address the facts involved in making the above statement.

1. The economic impact of 850,000 dollars to our area was totally ridiculous. The main offshore party boats, Mayport Princess and the Majesty use (based on 210 trips annually) 260,000 gallons of diesel fuel at $2.50 per gallon in addition to pay for the crew, repairs to the equipment and maintenance on boat engines would be double what was reported (at the Jacksonville SAFMC meeting) to be the impact on the economy mentioned, and there are more that two (2) of these larger commercial boats in the area (copy of SAFMC new release enclosed).

2. These boats require bait for the hooks that catch the fish (they don't bite a bare hook). This involves approximately 1,200 people who have boats, nets, paid people, upkeep and fuel in order to fill the need of the great number of people.

3. The bait is sold by the shops to the offshore fisherman who number about 1,500 in our area alone, and if they don't have the bait to sell, it will be difficult to stay in business.

4. Boat manufacturer's will go out of business or cut employees first, then later go out of business.

5. Fuel consumption will decrease dramatically and the tax on fuel will decrease at a loss to national and state entities in abundance.

6. There are a multitude of people who depend on their ability to catch fish to feed their own family's fish rather than meat from the market. They are good at catching fish and it doesn't cost them $8.99 per pound to do so.

7. The most important reason to rescind the decision is that the fishery is in the most abundant, robust condition that it has ever been and the care of that fishery is being given the care that it deserves by the recreational fisherman more so than ever before.

8. Possibly as important as reason # 7 would be the fact that only 8 of the 13 members of the South Atlantic Fishery's management council voted for the closure and 2 of them I understand are the commercial inclined fishermen on the council from North Carolina, who may benefit from the closure, otherwise, the vote could have been 6-7, not to close the fishery. I don't believe the vote was disclosed.

9. It would be a delightful pleasure to extend to you and your family and of course your security people a cruise out of the quaint historic Village of Mayport, Florida adjacent to the Mayport Naval Base and Airfield, which, by the way could handle landing Air Force One (the base commander approving of course) having the offshore party boat pick your family and your entourage up at the base and proceed seaward with an accompanying naval escort for you and your family to feel completely safe and secure.

10. The Offshore Sport Fishing Club, along with the City of Jacksonville, Florida and the Beaches have been building man made reefs off our shores for 60 years and a number of them that have been placed in the more strategic places now numbering 332 and growing. These man made reefs are great for the spawn of the mature species and great for the protection of the spawn with hiding spaces for the new crop that make them safe and on their way to maturity because of the small spaces to hide from predators. Many other of the coastal areas have picked up on this wonderful reef building that has enhanced our population of the Red Snapper and that is just one important item, other than economic impact, that the ruling group, who are talking about possibly closing this area of the fishery for 20-30 years, need a reality check. I can't help but wonder if they have considered the above information about concern for what is being done by the citizenry for the propagation of the Fishery and replenishing of the same? For America, for the people of America, for the lost jobs and because it is right.

11. The impact on the economy in this area is anticipated to be 16.5 million and if West Marine closes 3 stores, as the owner says is quite likely, it will be 32.5 million plus more people out of work. Therefore, it would be prudent to reconsider the closure, and with further study.

Allow me to say thank you in advance for your reconsideration of a decision by executive order to rescind this unreasonable decision of a Fishery that is in robust and abundant condition.

Sincerely yours in hope and prayer,

Clayton Doerr

Clayton Doerr, Citizen

CC: PEW, NOAA, SAFMC
Charles Crist, Governor of Florida
John Peyton, Mayor, City of Jacksonville, Florida
RFA, Recreational Fishing Alliance
JOFSC, Jax Offshore Sport Fishing Club
The Florida Times Union Newspaper
Fox News/ Glenn Beck
CNN
Rush Limbaugh

NOT A GOOD TIME
TO PUT SO MANY THOUSANDS
OUT OF WORK + FOOD -
MAYBE LATER
BUT NOT NOW
SEE US ON THE CAPITAL
STEPS FEBRUARY 24th