



# OFFICES OF THE GOVERNORS

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THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI  
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WASHINGTON

June 13, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write in opposition of your Administration’s proposal to remove \$70 million from the funding directed to fishing families, communities, and businesses that depend upon salmon fishing in our states. The collapse of this year’s salmon season will cause an estimated \$290 million economic loss to California, Oregon, and Washington, causing a tremendous financial burden on fishing families in a time of rising prices and economic uncertainty.

Mr. President, we disagree with your Administration’s assessment that these funds constitute “lower-priority federal programs and excess funds.” We believe that it should be a high federal priority to provide the \$70 million of needed assistance to fishing families, communities, and businesses that depend upon salmon fishing, instead of directing this amount to fix the underestimated cost of the 2010 census.

The emergency disaster assistance for fishing families, communities, and businesses has been thoroughly considered by Congress and repeatedly supported. These funds are desperately needed and timing is critical. We urge you to reconsider this effort to reduce and redirect this much needed disaster assistance funding. We urge you to instead stand with fishing families and communities who rely on this industry for their livelihood.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California

Theodore R. Kulongoski  
Governor of Oregon

Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor of Washington

c: Members of the California Congressional Delegation  
Members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation  
Members of the Washington Congressional Delegation