Mr. Casey C. Brinck

Legislative Assistant

The Honorable John L. Mica

United States House of Representatives

Florida 7th District

2187 Rayburn Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

July 3, 2013

Dear Mr. Brinck,

Good afternoon, I am writing to you today to follow up on our meeting of July 1,2013 at 1:00pm in Congressman Mica’s office. I spoke to you on that day regarding two very important issues; Congressman Mica’s support in the signing of the letter to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA) asking that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) withdraw the provision to preempt  state shark fin trade laws and H. Res. 285 which is calling for a federal ban on the importation of shark fins from sharks caught through the practice of finning, and for other purposes. I have attached both items for your review again.

Pertaining to the NOAA letter, I found out today that the deadline to receive public comments has been extended from July 8, 2013 to July 31,2013. I was wondering if Congressman Mica has had an opportunity to read over the letter and whether he has agreed to sign on in support?  If he has already given his support of this issue please thank him. If he has not please urge him to lend his voice to help continue to protect sharks by asking that this provision be withdrawn. At this point the state bans are a much stronger defense in eliminating the demand for shark fin products, which in turn helps protect the species.

With regard to H. Res 285 submitted by Congressman Buchanan I noticed that as of yesterday the following legislators have signed onto the Resolution in support;

[Bordallo, Madeleine [D-GU0]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/madeleine_bordallo/400041) [Brownley, Julia [D-CA26]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/julia_brownley/412516) [Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA29]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/tony_cardenas/412517) [Cicilline, David [D-RI1]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/david_cicilline/412470) [Crenshaw, Ander [R-FL4]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/ander_crenshaw/400086) [DeFazio, Peter [D-OR4]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/peter_defazio/400100) [Farr, Sam [D-CA20]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/sam_farr/400129) [Grijalva, Raúl [D-AZ3]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/raul_grijalva/400162) [Grimm, Michael [R-NY11]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/michael_grimm/412451) [Hastings, Alcee [D-FL20]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/alcee_hastings/400170) [Huffman, Jared [D-CA2]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/jared_huffman/412511) [Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA19]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/zoe_lofgren/400245) [Lowenthal, Alan [D-CA47]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/alan_lowenthal/412521) [Maloney, Carolyn [D-NY12]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/carolyn_maloney/400251) [McCollum, Betty [D-MN4]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/betty_mccollum/400259) [Meng, Grace [D-NY6]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/grace_meng/412560) [Miller, George [D-CA11]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/george_miller/400278) [Moran, James “Jim” [D-VA8]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/james_moran/400283) [Murphy, Patrick [D-FL18]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/patrick_murphy/412527) [Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY10]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/jerrold_nadler/400289) [Sánchez, Linda [D-CA38]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/linda_sanchez/400355) [Speier, Jackie [D-CA14]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/jackie_speier/412259) [Titus, Dina [D-NV1]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/dina_titus/412318) [Wilson, Frederica [D-FL24]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/frederica_wilson/412412) [Young, W. Bill [R-FL13]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/w_bill_young/400439) [Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR3]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/earl_blumenauer/400033) (joined Jul 09, 2013)

[Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR1]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/suzanne_bonamici/412501)(joined Jul 09, 2013) [Capps, Lois [D-CA24]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/lois_capps/400062) (joined Jul 09, 2013)  [Castor, Kathy [D-FL14]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/kathy_castor/412195) (joined Jul 09, 2013) [Deutch, Theodore [D-FL21]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/theodore_deutch/412385) (joined Jul 09, 2013) [Garamendi, John [D-CA3]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/john_garamendi/412382) (joined Jul 09, 2013)

[Hahn, Janice [D-CA44]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/janice_hahn/412498)(joined Jul 09, 2013) [Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX18]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/sheila_jackson_lee/400199)  (joined Jul 09, 2013) [Miller, Jeff [R-FL1]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/jeff_miller/400279)(joined Jul 09, 2013) [Norton, Eleanor [D-DC0]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/eleanor_norton/400295)(joined Jul 09, 2013) [Peters, Scott [D-CA52]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/scott_peters/412523)(joined Jul 09, 2013)

[Schakowsky, Janice “Jan” [D-IL9]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/janice_schakowsky/400360)(joined Jul 09, 2013) [Swalwell, Eric [D-CA15]](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/eric_swalwell/412514) (joined Jul 09, 2013). Information obtained from [www.govtrackus](http://www.govtrackus)

I was hoping to see Congressman Mica’s name on the list of supporters and was wondering if he had an opportunity to look over the information I left with you on the importance of sharks, the very important role they play in our ecosystem and the mass slaughtering that is going on due to the illegal finning industry and the demand for shark fins and shark fin products. Again I have to stress that the best way to stop this horrific slaughtering is to cut off the demand. This resolution would directly address the demand for shark fins and shark fin products on a federal level and in turn would diminish greatly the amount of sharks being harvested daily for their fins. By taking this step the United States would be saying that they will not contribute to the mass slaughtering of sharks which will inevitably result in their extinction.

These are two issues that are very important to me and in my opinion should be to the entire world, as the impact to our ecosystem will be felt by us all.

I would appreciate it if you could relay my concerns to Congressman Mica and please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information. I will contact you within the next two weeks to discuss Congressman Mica’s stance on these issues.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to speaking with you again soon.

Thomas Ponce

Founder

Lobby For Animals

[www.LobbyForAnimals.org](http://www.LobbyForAnimals.org)

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