



ANDREW P. RAIA
Assemblyman 12th District

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Mr. Kevin Law & Stuart Rabinowitz
Co-Chairmen, Long Island Regional Economic Development Council
c/o Empire State Development
150 Motor Parkway
Hauppauge, NY 11788

July 21, 2017

Dear Mr. Law and Mr. Rabinowitz:

I am writing you in support of Manna Fish Farms, Inc., an organization that seeks to provide new methods of accessing fresh seafood off the Eastern coast of Long Island, and their request for a 20% capital equipment grant from Empire State Development. Based upon the work they have already accomplished, I believe that Manna Fish Farms should be awarded this money in order to continue developing new and improved methods of offshore aquaculture.

Although a relatively young organization, Manna Fish Farms has already established strong working relationships with several prominent universities, including SUNY Stony Brook and the University of Miami, as well as with multiple ocean farming experts from across the country. When fully completed, Manna Fish Farms will be the first offshore finfish farm on the East Coast of the United States, leading to the creation of a variety of new job opportunities as well as a reliable way to manage and preserve our seafood resources. Strikingly, the United States currently imports over 90% of the seafood Americans consume each year, significantly undermining our domestic fishing industry and inflicting a variety of economic pains on many members of our society.

Additionally, demand for fresh seafood continues to rise all throughout the world, and I believe it will be an enormous benefit for New York State to have cutting-edge, high-tech aquaculture ventures already established in order to keep pace with this development. While Manna Fish Farms will help improve access to our seafood reserves, they have already demonstrated that they will do so in a responsible, environmentally-friendly way. The individuals associated with the organization understand the current dangers facing the marine ecosystem of Long Island, and

have made assurances that their efforts will be completely safe and transparent. As such, I believe that it would be a wise decision to reward Manna Fish Farms, Inc. with increased grant money in order to improve offshore aquaculture off the East Coast of Long Island.

Again, thank you for your attention regarding this matter, and if you require any further assistance from me, please do not hesitate to contact my office directly.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew P. Raia". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

Andrew P. Raia
Member of Assembly
12th A.D.