



*College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
Department of Mechanical Engineering*

July 24, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Law and Mr. Rabinowitz,

I am writing in strong support of the application submitted by Manna Fish Farms, Inc. for funding through Empire State Development. Manna Fish Farms will be the first off shore finfish farm on the East Coast of the United States to help meet the increasing demand for seafood.

According to the United Nations, in order to maintain our current level of seafood consumption, we must double our Aquaculture production by 2030. Open sea farming is one of the best way to achieve this without negative impact on the environment. Currently, the US imports over 90% of seafood consumed, which incurs a \$14 billion dollar trade deficit. Domestic ocean farming can help meet the seafood demand while creating jobs and reducing the trade deficit.

Manna Fish Farms has been working with Stony Brook University to develop innovative solutions for open sea fish farming. They are committed to responsible, transparent, and eco-friendly farming. We have submitted a joint proposal with them to NOAA for implementing technologies in support of open sea fish farming. The requested funding will be used to purchase submersible cages and mooring equipment, along with other capital equipment to support their offshore farm

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Q. Jeffrey Ge".

Qiaode Jeffrey Ge, Ph.D.
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