



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE

Kevin Law and Stuart Rabinowitz, Co-Chairs
Long Island Regional Economic Development Council
Empire State Development, 150 Motor Parkway
Hauppauge, New York 11788

July 25, 2007

Dear Mr. Law and Mr. Rabinowitz,

I am writing in support of the Empire State Development application being submitted by Manna Fish Farms, Inc. (Grant #72899). As a fish biologist at the University of New Hampshire, I have been collaborating with Manna Fish Farms because offshore aquaculture offers the opportunity to sustainably produce much needed protein for our burgeoning population. Despite possessing the world's largest Exclusive Economic Zone, the United States is the leading global importer of fish and fishery products, with 91% of the seafood consumed (by value) originating abroad, half derived from aquaculture. With a rising seafood trade deficit of more than \$14 billion, this reliance on imports poses a risk to our nation's food security, as environmental and health safety standards differ by country, and may be considerably less stringent than those imposed by the US Food and Drug and Environmental Protection Agencies. Obviously, these statistics need to change and fortunately Manna Fish Farms is on the forefront of doing so! I wish them great success with their application.

Sincerely yours,

David Berlinsky Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Agricultural Sciences, Nutrition and Food Systems