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FRED W. THIELE, JR.
Assemblyman 1st District

CHAIR
Committee on Small Business

July 24, 2017

Kevin Law and Stuart Rabinowitz
Co-chairs
Long Island Regional Economic Development Council
150 Motor Parkway
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Dear Mr. Law and Mr. Rabinowitz,

I am writing to express my support for an application submitted by Manna Fish Farms in East Quogue for funding through Empire State Development to support their initiative to create the first off shore finfish farm on the East Coast of the United States.

Manna Fish Farms is working in collaboration with SUNY Stony Brook, Stony Brook SOMAS (School of Marine and Atmospheric Science), University of New Hampshire, University of Rhode Island, and University of Miami. They are also working with ocean farm experts Neil Sims, from the Vellella Project and Kampachi Farms in Hawaii, and Brian O'Hanlon, Founder of Open Blue cobia farm in Panama.

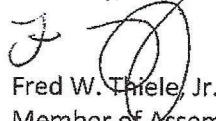
Sustainable and transparent, this project will boost our local economy with an estimated 100+ jobs added, while also taking pressure off our precious and depleting wild fish stocks.

Ocean farming is not an option – it is an imperative. The United Nations has projected that we must double our aquaculture production by 2030 in order to maintain our current levels of seafood consumption. The best place for this to occur is in the ocean, where currents swiftly move through submerged cages without negative impact on the environment. Currently, the U.S. imports 91 percent of the seafood consumed, a \$14 billion trade deficit.

Manna Fish Farms is committed to responsible and eco-friendly ocean farming. This 20 percent capital equipment grant will be used to purchase submersible cages and mooring equipment, along with other capital equipment to support this offshore farm.

I strongly encourage you to support this endeavor. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Fred W. Thiele, Jr.
Member of Assembly