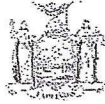


THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY



DAVID G. McDONOUGH
Assemblyman 14th District

July 20, 2017

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Minority Joint Conference Committee

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Minority Task Force on
Public Safety

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Mr. Kevin Law, Co-Chair
Mr. Stuart Rabinowitz, Co-Chair
Long Island Regional Economic Development Council
c/o Empire State Development Corporation
150 Motor Parkway
Hauppauge, New York 11788

RE: MANNA FISH FARMS, INC. – GRANT #72899

Dear Mr. Law and Mr. Rabinowitz,


I am writing in support of an application submitted by Manna Fish Farms, Inc. for funding through Empire State Development. Manna Fish Farms has plans for sustainable offshore farming in U.S. EEZ Zone Federal waters, 8 miles off the coast of eastern Long Island. Manna has received an award of 20% capital equipment match from Empire State Development in Round 5 and is now seeking to continue that match into their next phase of development.

In the United States we are importing 91% of our seafood, most of which is farmed, which is why this project is so important. Ocean Farming is in accord with the NOAA Strategic Plan and will provide a sustainably produced, natural product, without harm to our environment and without great consumption of natural resources. Utilizing the natural energy of the ocean, finfish (striped bass, steelhead trout, tuna) will be grown out in submersible cages maintained 60 feet below the surface, and the fish are fed a natural, sustainably produced feed via an automated feed system. At any given moment, there are over 1.7 million gallons of water flowing through the submerged cage, with each cage holding over 150,000 pounds of fish.

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

Manna Fish Farms is committed to responsible, transparent, sustainable ocean farming, therefore, without reservation, I support their application for funding from the Empire State Development Corporation.

Sincerely,


David G. McDonough
Member of Assembly

DGM:ll