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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

January 18, 2017

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan
Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan,

I write in support of the application submitted by Manna Fish Farms, Inc. for funding from the Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This funding will allow Manna Fish Farms to launch operations that better provide for both the economic and environmental needs of their local and national communities.

Located in Suffolk County, Manna Fish Farms is a new aquaculture company founded by a team of marine scientists, aquaculture experts, operational experts, and professors from the Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. The Farm was founded to provide sustainable seafood production and create jobs in the local community. Manna Fish Farms hopes to establish the first open-sea fish farm on the East Coast of the United States. The Farm intends to sustainably raise finfish, shellfish, and microalgae approximately 8 miles south of Shinnecock Inlet.

The requested funding will be used to meet permitting and planning requirements, and to facilitate public programming to ensure the success of the Farm. Manna Fish Farms plans to conduct baseline environmental surveys, pilot studies, and offshore data collection in order to support offshore planning. They will also create a public education and outreach initiative in the local community. By implementing these programs, Manna Fish Farms will be able to launch and conduct operations as efficiently and sustainably as possible.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Laura Driscoll at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator