

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

**Bridget Fleming**  
Second Legislative District

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Ways & Means Committee

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Health Committee



**Committee Member**  
Public Safety  
Environment, Planning  
and Agriculture  
Public Works, Transportation  
and Energy

William Wise,  
Director of New York Sea Grant  
Stony Brook University  
Stony Brook, NY 11794

May 4, 2017

Dear Mr. Wise,

This letter is in support of Manna Fish Farms, Inc. of East Quogue, NY application for the 2017 NOAA Sea Grant Aquaculture Initiative. The district that I represent is comprised of hundreds of miles of coastline and is an area which has a history rooted in maritime culture. We have also seen our fishery industries damaged by water pollution and contamination. Our community has made great strides to combat these issues but our once robust maritime industry has not fully recovered from these effects. This vital funding would be used to activate and upgrade the Aqua Manna automated feed buoy, which would make offshore farming possible, by automating the feeding of fish, and allowing the farm to remotely activate the system from shore.

The grant will enable Manna Fish Farms, Inc. to bring the lessons learned by generations of East Enders into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by creating sustainable food production that will help fulfill the growing needs of the American public. I am hopeful that you will consider supporting this organization through your grant and helping our community support an industry that is deeply rooted in our past.

Sincerely,

Bridget Fleming

County Legislator, Second District

BF:pb