

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



COUNTY LEGISLATURE

TOM CILMI
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR
10TH DISTRICT

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July 21, 2017

Kevin Law & Stuart Rabinowitz, Co-Chairs
Long Island Regional Economic Development
c/o Empire State Development
150 Motor Parkway
Hauppauge, New York 11788

Manna Fish Farms, Inc. – Grant #72899

Dear Mr. Law and Mr. Rabinowitz,

I am writing you today in support of the application submitted by Manna Fish Farms, Inc. for funding through Empire State Development. Manna Fish Farms will be the first off shore finfish farm on the East Coast of the United States. The project plan is responsible, transparent and eco-friendly. The project takes pressure off our precious wild fish stocks, and revitalizes our working waterfront. Additionally, the project will boost our local economy, including more than one hundred new jobs.

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

Ocean Farming of seafood is the future – 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 ocean's natural currents are able to swiftly move through submerged cages, without causing a negative impact on the environment. Currently the U.S. imports 91% of seafood consumed creating a \$14 Billion dollar trade deficit. Ocean farming is occurring throughout the world, and the United States has lagged behind in the development of offshore aquaculture. Manna Fish Farms is committed to responsible, transparent, sustainable ocean farming. The funding will be used to purchase submersible cages and mooring equipment, along with other capital equipment to support our offshore farm.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Cilmi". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tom Cilmi
Suffolk County Legislator
10th Legislative District