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\*Alternate

The Honorable XXX  
XXX House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

December 10, 2013

Dear Representative XXX:

On behalf of the Executive Council of the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses, a bipartisan body of state legislators representing over 2,000 members of state legislative sportsmen's caucuses from around the country, we are writing to urge your support as a co-sponsor of the *Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Conservation Act of 2013* (H.R. 3099). Red snapper management in the Gulf of Mexico is a glaring example of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service's inability to effectively manage a species important to both the commercial and recreational sectors. Supported by the Gulf States Governors, H.R. 3099 will allow the states, which have a proven history of managing our natural resources to the maximum benefit of the American public and the long-term sustainability of various species, to assume the primary management authority over red snapper.

Transferring management authority of a poorly managed federal marine species to a state-based marine fisheries commission has proven to be an effective solution for troubled fisheries. Following the passage of the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act (P.L. 98-613, October 31, 1984), the regulatory authority for Atlantic coast striped bass was given to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Subsequently, a striped bass population with less than 9 million fish in 1982 has been successfully rebuilt to more than 46 million fish in 2012. The Atlantic striped bass recovery is truly a testament to the abilities of state agencies to cooperatively manage a fishery resource when federal management fails.

As with Atlantic striped bass, we believe H.R. 3099 would ensure improved red snapper management for both the sustainability of the species and the needs of the commercial and recreational sectors, which will result in significant economic benefits for Gulf States coastal communities and the nation as a whole. We encourage you to become a co-sponsor of H.R. 3099, the *Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Conservation Act of 2013* by contacting Diane Cihota of Congressman Jeff Miller's office at 202-225-4136, or Zach Butterworth in Congressman Cedric Richmond's office at 202-225-6636.

Sincerely,

Senator Robin Webb (KY)  
*President*

Representative Mark Neuman (AK)  
*Vice-President*

Representative Brandon Phelps (IL)  
*Secretary*