



May 3, 2021

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Chairman, Subcommittee on Water,
Oceans, and Wildlife
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cliff Bentz
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water,
Oceans, and Wildlife
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva, Ranking Member Westerman, Chairman Huffman, and Ranking Member Bentz:

The undersigned organizations, representing millions of saltwater anglers, boaters and related businesses in the United States write to you in support of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act (H.R. 160/S. 46). We appreciate that the House Natural Resources Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee is holding a hearing to address this important issue.

Sustainable fisheries are a top priority for the sportfishing and boating community, and those fisheries are dependent on vibrant, healthy habitats to support them. Given the recent and ongoing challenges facing coral reefs, including disease, acidification, temperature changes, and sedimentation; reauthorizing and updating the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 is critical to enable our states and territories to respond to these challenges actively and more effectively.

The Restoring Resilient Reefs Act provides new avenues for federal resources to be utilized during coral reef emergencies and disasters. The bill also increases collaboration between state, territorial, and federal entities, allowing them to expand their restoration efforts and create new opportunities for coral research and restoration partnerships. Because no single agency or organization can do it alone, establishing strong

partnerships is the best way to effectively manage and restore coral reefs. Finally, the bill formalizes the role of coral reef restoration and adaptive management as major aspects of coral conservation work, which are essential for the long-term survival of our coral reefs.

As this bill moves through the legislative process, we look forward to working with you to ensure sufficient and equitable funding is available to all affected states and territories for coral conservation and restoration activities.

We thank you for your efforts on behalf of our nation's coral reefs. We urge your favorable action on the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association

BoatU.S.

Center for Sportfishing Policy

Coastal Conservation Association

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation

International Game Fish Association

Marine Retailers Association of the Americas

National Marine Manufacturers Association