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June 16, 2016

Mr. Daniel Calleja Crespo  
Director General – DG Environment  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels Belgium

Dear Mr. Crespo:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the risk assessment submitted by the Swedish Ministry of Environment and Energy and its potential to result in a ban of the importation of American Lobsters to the European Union (EU).

The Commonwealth's leading lobster biologists contributed to a multi-agency, comprehensive review of Sweden's risk assessment. The report, *Preliminary review and analysis of Sweden's Risk Assessment on the potential impacts of the American lobster trade in Swedish waters*, suggests that the invasive threat from American lobsters is minimal, and likely not consistent with the Swedish Ministry's conclusions. Other research by New England marine biologists from the University of Maine maintains that live lobsters have been exported around the world for decades, and interbreeding and disease transmission risk between Maine lobsters and European lobsters is extremely low.

The trans-Atlantic lobster trade is valued at about \$196 million dollars per year and the EU accounts for one-fifth of all United States lobster exports. Both North America and Europe benefit from the market and this potential ban could create a significant disruption for New England lobstermen. The economic impacts of a ban on the importation of American lobsters will be significant for U.S. and Canadian fishermen, seafood distributors here and in Europe, and to European consumers.

I am committed to working together to ensure coordination and cooperation between the New England maritime economy and the European Commission. I strongly encourage you to consider the findings of the multi-agency report and to engage in a productive dialogue with our federal partners to continue the responsible transatlantic trade of live American lobsters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Baker".

Charles D. Baker  
Governor