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A Non-Profit Organization Since 1997

Correction to Comment on SB1549 as
Mandated by Pacific Group's legal team

Senator Gordon Smith
404 Russell SOB
Washington, DC 20510

On October 4, 2005 I sent you a letter which contained mistakes regarding Pacific Seafood and their sending approximately 30 million dollars worth of crab to China for processing. I also gave similar verbal testimony at the September 2005 Pacific Fishery Management Council. It is our new understanding that the amount of crab they sent to China was not in the amount of 30 million dollars, rather they sent an undetermined amount of crab to test the waters of Chinese seafood processing. We are sorry that we got the particular facts wrong, it is obvious that Pacific Seafood did not send such a large amount of crab to China for processing. We sincerely apologize for any confusion this might have caused.

However we feel that the seafood processors are making moves to ship American jobs to China while ignoring the health and safety of the American people. From the boat owners and processing worker perspective, we feel that the Pacific Whiting foundation, of which Pacific Seafood is a member, is a front organization designed to take away American processing jobs.

While I regret my mistake in fact regarding Pacific Seafood's processing of crab in China, I will continue to speak about the industry's plans to send American jobs to China. Not only will this affect the working men and woman of America, but I believe that it will endanger the sea food eating public by lowering the safety and regulation of the seafood sent to China, as well as affecting the freshness of the sea food.

Please find enclosed a corrected paragraph which contained the error, a copy of the original paragraph, a copy of the news source from which the information was misquoted and my apology for any inconvenience that this error may have created. However, I ask you to please follow the recommendation of the Justice Department which stated that processor shares of seafood harvest will only prevent and control processing competition.

Sincerely,

Steve Bodnar

Corrected paragraph

The West Coast Seafood Processors Association's major players, Trident Seafoods and the Pacific Group, are also major founders and contributors of the "Coastal Jobs Coalition," a nonprofit group started to convince the public that processor shares equals coastal jobs. The fact is the current trend in seafood processing is catch it here but process it in China. This year, the Trident Seafoods sent salmon to China for processing that normally cost \$30 million to process here. It cost them \$6 million to get the product cleaned and another \$6 million to transport. Trident Seafoods still saved \$18 million that used to end up supporting our local communities. Trident Seafoods sent 40% of their salmon to China for processing. The Pacific Group has sent crab to China this year on a trial basis. How can they claim that their main interest is economic stability for coastal communities? All indicators say that this trend of processing in China will not only continue, but that it is going to expand. Twice frozen product that sells for less is the end result which means less money for the fishermen and our coastal communities and less quality and nutrition for the consumer.

Original Paragraph

The West Coast Seafood Processors Association's major players, Trident Seafoods and the Pacific Group, are also major founders and contributors of the "Coastal Jobs Coalition," a nonprofit group started to convince the public that processor shares equals coastal jobs. The fact is the current trend in seafood processing is catch it here but process it in China. This year, the Pacific Group sent crab to China for shaking that normally cost **\$30 million** to process here. It cost them **\$6 million** to get the product cleaned and another **\$6 million** to transport. Pacific Group still saved **\$18 million** that used to end up supporting our local communities. Trident Seafoods sent 40% of their Alaskan pollock catch to China for processing. How can they claim that their main interest is economic stability for coastal communities? All indicators say that this trend of processing in China will not only continue, but that it is going to expand. Twice frozen product that sells for less is the end result which means less money for the fishermen and our coastal communities and less quality and nutrition for the consumer.