

October 5, 2015

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. President:

The Nature Conservancy is dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. We work in all fifty U.S. states and around the world to conserve land, water, and oceans, to address climate change, and to promote sustainable development.

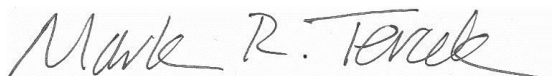
With this mission in mind, we are strongly encouraged by the environmental provisions in the recently concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement and congratulate you and your administration on the successful negotiation of these provisions. By embedding conservation commitments in the core text of the agreement and making them subject to the TPP's dispute resolution mechanisms, the TPP provides new leverage to advance vital environmental objectives.

We are heartened that the TPP's mandates on marine capture fisheries will require Pacific nations to address the growing threat from harmful fishing practices by promoting effective science-based management systems and stock recovery, eliminating some of the most harmful subsidies for overfished stocks, and implementing port state measures to address illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Widespread adoption of these policies could have profound positive effects on the health of the world's oceans and ocean fisheries.

We also applaud requirements in the agreement that TPP countries fulfill their obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and take further action to combat illegal wildlife and timber trade, regardless of source country. We look forward to enhanced law enforcement cooperation and other joint efforts to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of these provisions.

As we approach entry into force of the TPP, we urge you to support its Environment Chapter through a robust program of capacity building so that key partners in the agreement have the institutional and technical capacity to fulfill their obligations. We look forward to working with your administration to achieve the full potential of the TPP and build on its successes in future trade agreements.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Tercek