

# *Turtle & Shark Lodge*

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Hon. Nick Joe Rahall II, Chairman  
Hon. Doc Hastings, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Rahall and Ranking Member Hastings:

I am writing today as a business owner in American Samoa in support of the American Samoa Protection of Industries Resources and Employment Act, which is currently before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources.

I have reviewed ASPIRE, and I understand that this proposal will increase direct delivery of fish to American Samoa and will lead to tuna processors maintaining a presence on the island.

I represent the Turtle & Shark Lodge. I am a local business that has been affected by the departure of Chicken of Sea and I have seen a drop in business visitors to American Samoa that were doing business with both Chicken of the Sea and Star Kist Samoa, Inc.

I am very concern over the departure of Chicken of the Sea and I fear that if Star Kist Samoa, Inc. leaves American Samoa, there will be a severe economic loss of business to a large number of businesses in American Samoa that depend and rely upon the weekly wages of the workers at the canneries.

I fear that our economic woes will come home to roost throughout the states of Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska, as unemployed Samoans travel or migrate to these states in search of employment or welfare benefits. Our problem will then be a multi-state problem that require more federal and state resources.

The problem starts with economics, but it is also a social problem, because unemployment will lead to an increase in family discord, increase in crimes and other anti-social behavior that will have its separate cost on American Samoa and for those that migrate to other states.

As an American Samoan business owner, a naturalized United States Citizen and an American Samoan resident, I urge you to do whatever is necessary to ensure that ASPIRE becomes law.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Malia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "M".