

DATE: May 6, 2019

TO: The Honorable Jared Huffman, Chairman
The Honorable Tom McClintock, Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife

FROM: Thai Union Group PCL

Thai Union Group PCL (Thai Union) respectfully submits the attached “2018 Sustainability Report – Changing Seafood for Good” (the Report), for the May 1, 2019 Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Oversight hearing, “Oversight: The State of Fisheries,” and requests that the Report be entered into the hearing record. The Report details Thai Union’s sixth annual assessment of key performance indicators outlined in our sustainability strategy, SeaChange, which focuses on four areas:

- Safe and Legal Labor: Providing safe, legal, and freely chosen employment in our own facilities and in supply chains is critically important to Thai Union.
- Responsible Sourcing: Traceability is the key to improving the transparency and operational practices of the entire seafood supply chain.
- Responsible Operations: The way we operate must be environmentally responsible and show a duty of care for our workers.
- People and Communities: At Thai Union we take responsibility for improving the lives and work in the regions where we operate.

Thai Union is a publicly traded company with global operations. In the United States, Thai Union works through multiple subsidiaries, including Chicken of the Sea International (COSI) and Chicken of the Sea Frozen Foods (COSFF). COSI is a leading producer of tuna products, with a canning factory in Lyons, Georgia, which has over 360 employees. COSFF is a leading supplier of numerous other seafood products. COSI and COSFF are headquartered in El Segundo, California.

As a global seafood industry leader, Thai Union shares the Committee’s interest in establishing a baseline of facts to address issues related to our water, oceans, and wildlife, particularly as they relate to conservation efforts, the livelihood of workers in the seafood industry, and consumers. Partnerships and collaboration with NGOs, governments, and industry are critical to our ability to make meaningful improvements across the entire global seafood industry.

In addition to numerous other NGO relationships involved in our efforts worldwide, the following are examples of our current work together:

- As part of our 2017 landmark agreement with Greenpeace, Thai Union continues to make substantial progress on our commitment to implement measures to tackle illegal fishing

and overfishing, while also improving the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of workers across our supply chains.

- Since 2014, Thai Union Europe (TUE) and the World Wildlife Fund have worked together to ensure that all TUE products are sourced from fisheries that meet the Marine Stewardship Council or Aquaculture Stewardship Council standards, or are on the way to doing so through credible Fishery or Aquaculture Improvement Projects.
- Most recently, Thai Union announced the launch of SeaChange IGNITE – a collaboration with the Monterey Bay Aquarium to advance new sustainability initiatives and improvements throughout the supply chain.
- For our Ethical Migrant Recruitment Policy, we have launched an independent review funded by Humanity United and Freedom Fund to share our experiences and lessons learned to help develop a business case for ethical recruitment.
- In addition, we are actively engaged in several international partnerships leading critical changes in the seafood industry such as Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship (SeaBos) and the Global Ghost Gear Initiative.

We are proud of our continued progress in these areas in 2018, and our efforts have been widely recognized. For example, Thai Union was ranked number one globally in the Food Products Industry Index of the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI).

We would be happy to share our best practices with the Committee as it addresses these important issues. We look forward to working together, and if you have any questions or would like additional information, please don't hesitate to ask.

Attachment