



October 22, 2018

Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
The Senate of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada, K1A 0A4

Dear Senator Andreychuk,

On behalf of the Canada's commercial fishing sector, I'm writing pursuant to the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade's examination of Bill C-79, The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership Implementation Act (CPTPP), and to encourage the Committee to report the Bill back to the Senate expeditiously.

The Fisheries Council of Canada is the voice of Canada's fish and seafood sectors, and strongly supports measures aimed at facilitating trade. The seafood industry is the most export sensitive sector in the Canadian food manufacturing sector with almost 80% of production destined for foreign markets. Last year the industry was responsible for \$7 billion in exports. On the flipside Canadian food retailers and restaurants are also significant importers of seafood, with 73% of the domestic market supplied by imports. Global population growth and increased per capita consumption of seafood combined with the advantages enjoyed by the Canadian seafood producers: a favourable international brand; a world leader in sustainable fisheries management; high food safety and labour standards; and rich biodiversity, all signal significant opportunity for the sector.

CPTPP will create one of the largest free trade arrangements in the world and will provide Canadian exporters with enhanced market access to key Asian markets—which have high per capita seafood consumption. From 2014 to 2016, Canada exported an average of close to \$700 million a year to CPTPP countries. When the CPTPP enters into force most tariffs on Canadian fish and seafood exports will be eliminated, creating new opportunities in key markets such as Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam—a positive development in and of itself. However, quick ratification of CPTPP carries additional benefits for Canadian exporters.

The agreement comes into force 60 days after six of 11 signatories ratify the trade pact through enabling legislation. As of writing, four countries have ratified legislation: Australia, Mexico, Japan and Singapore with two other countries at advanced stages of review: Vietnam and New Zealand. Being among the first six countries to adopt the deal could grant Canada significant "first-mover advantages," better positioning the seafood sector to establish itself in important supply chains and get a leg up on competitors.

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As such FCC, fully supports the message you've received from other agrifood interests, and Canada's International Trade Minister, the Hon. Jim Carr, which encourages the Committee to report C-79 back to the Senate as soon as possible so the Bill may come into force on December 31, 2018, thereby allowing Canadians seafood exporters to apply the tariff reduction schedule to exports within the current calendar year.

We appreciate that the Senate prides itself on being a chamber of sober, independent second thought, but we believe that there is broad regional and stakeholder consensus, as well as an overall strong national interest to ratify C-79 as quickly as possible.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Paul Lansbergen  
President

cc:

The Hon. Jim Carr  
The Hon. Chrystia Freeland  
The Hon. Andrew Scheer  
The Hon. Erin O'Toole  
The Hon. Senator Larry Smith  
The Hon. Senator Joseph Day, P.Eng.  
The Hon. Senator Fabien Manning  
The Hon. Senator Sabi Marwah