

Dear Friends,

I'm proud to share that just a couple of weeks ago, the House took a major step toward reauthorizing the Young Fishermen's Development Act. For coastal communities across the country, and especially for us here in New England, this is more than just another piece of legislation — it's a lifeline.

Commercial fishing is not only the backbone of Gloucester's economy; it's the soul of our identity. From the working waterfront to the classrooms of Gloucester High, this way of life is woven into who we are. You may have seen it on screen in CODA, but we live it every day.

That's why I'm especially proud that this program has already brought real results to our communities: a \$400,000 grant recently supported local groups like the New England Young Fishermen's Alliance, giving young people in our region critical vocational training. Reauthorizing this program means more opportunities, more innovation in sustainable fishing, and a stronger future for the next generation of New England fishermen.

This month, H.R. 3692, the bill to reauthorize the Young Fishermen's Development Act, successfully advanced through the House Committee on Natural Resources and its Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries. It has now been ordered to be reported, meaning the next step is a full House floor debate and vote. This is great news for our fishing communities and for the future of sustainable, small-boat fisheries in New England and across the country.

In such a divided political climate, and with the threat of a government shutdown looming, bipartisan legislation like this is more vital than ever. This commonsense, bipartisan bill supports working families, preserves cultural heritage, and invests in the next generation. It deserves swift passage in both the House and Senate.

Thank you for standing with our fishing communities, now and for the future.