June XX, 2015

The Honorable Ed Hernandez

Chair, Senate Committee on Health

State Capitol, Room 2191

Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 226 (Atkins) – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Hernandez,

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I write in support of Speaker Atkins’ “Pacific to Plate” bill, State Assembly Bill 226. AB 226 would clarify and streamline state laws to make it easier for San Diego’s Tuna Harbor Dockside Market, and other Fishermen’s Markets like it, to grow and thrive.

Fishermen’s Markets allow local residents to choose their next meal from the fresh catch brought ashore by local fishermen and support the local fishing fleet. Unfortunately under current state law, the process is cumbersome for fishermen seeking to participate and the fishermen may not clean the fish.

AB 226 is needed to allow commercial fishermen to organize under a single permit for Fishermen’s Markets in a style similar to Certified Farmers' Markets. By adding Fishermen’s Markets to the definition of food facility, this “Pacific to Plate” legislation would allow local health departments to issue permits for a Fishermen's Market to operate as a separate food facility and it would expand the ability of fishermen to sell fresh or aquacultured fish directly to the public at the Fishermen's Market on an ongoing basis. Lastly, AB 226 is needed to allow fishermen at Fishermen’s Markets to clean fresh fish for patrons.

We urge your support for this important bill, which is beneficial for local fishermen and the economy.

Sincerely,