



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

April 22, 2000

Mr. John R. Gauvin, Director
Groundfish Forum, Inc.
4215 21st Avenue West
Suite 201
Seattle, WA 98199

Dear Mr. Gauvin:

As America celebrates the first Earth Day of the new century, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on receiving the Environmental Hero Award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. I greatly appreciate your dedication in helping to protect our nation's environment.

Today as people all over the world celebrate the 30th anniversary of Earth Day, NOAA also celebrates its 30th anniversary as this country's leading government agency in describing, predicting and protecting our environment. These two important milestones make it evident that Americans put a very high value on the environment we live in.

This Administration has made significant progress in environmental protection, and we must continue to build on these achievements to ensure that current and future generations can enjoy a healthy and thriving environment. With your help, we have repeatedly and successfully demonstrated that economic growth can go hand-in-hand with efforts to sustain and protect the environment.

As we observe the 30th annual Earth Day, please know that by volunteering your time and energy, you are part of a large worldwide community dedicated to building a legacy that will last for centuries. Again, thank you for your steadfast dedication to preserving our nation's environment.

Sincerely,

Al Gore

AG/amm