I am writing this letter on behalf of Happy Hooker Sportfishing & Pacific Dream Sportfishing. I have been welcomed into this fishing family for the last four years and have seen firsthand how devoted the Smith family is to the fishing industry. These guys proudly represent 3 generations of charter boat captains with the Happy Hooker being in their family for over 40 years. It really is their way of life as they have been raised on this boat. We hope to raise our children into this business as well so they can continue the family tradition of sportfishing captains. This industry has taught great work ethic, survival skills and how to be devoted to something you love. I also answer the business phones and handle reservations. I have witnessed not only our crew’s devotion but our customers as well. We have multiple generations that have fished with us for years to provide food for their families and a wonderful bonding experience. It brings me joy to talk with customers that have been with us throughout the years and share their excitement when they bring out their children and friends to fish together.

We also believe in reducing emissions. The captains have spent many hours discussing options and applying for grants to reduce emissions. We will be repowering the engines on both boats within the next year to reduce emissions. Protecting the environment will give us the ability to continue providing families with a way to bring home fish home to their families as well as continuing with a business we are proud of.

The timing for this new engine proposal has come at a very difficult time for us. We lost part of our season in 2020 due to Covid-19 and are still running with reduced capacity on our boats. The engines that would be needed for this proposal would not allow our current vessels to be retrofitted. Under the new proposal out of 174 passenger vessels only 1 will be able to retrofit to meet the new engine requirements. This we mean we would need to purchase multimillion dollar boats before 2034 in order to stay in operation. This will be very difficult to achieve, banks will not approve loans for new vessels if our current vessels are deemed non-compliant with little to no resale value. Imagine spending the last 50+ years building a company and investing in your dreams just to have that taken away without any consideration of how that affects everyone.

We provide charters to Boy Scouts, Veterans, and donate to nonprofit organizations. We believe fishing should be accessible and encouraged to the public. I have had clients tell me that the service we provide has given them direction in life and helped them find their passion. We hope to be able to continue to give them this opportunity. Some of our clients have even gone on to find jobs in the industry for themselves and their children. We have teenagers that have grown up fishing with us and volunteer to come out and learn the ways to help people on the deck catch more fish. Technology has such a grip on our youth it has been great to see their eyes light up at the opportunity to be out on the open water helping others and doing what they love.

Historically speaking the CARB board has regulated commercial boats to uphold the same standards to carb emissions as passenger vessels. The double standard of passenger vessels being regulated without holding commercial vessels to the same requirements is discouraging. If this is being done for environmental purposes how can almost identical vessels be held to a certain standard, without the other being held to the same standard. We believe that passenger boat should be put in the same category as commercial fishing boats so we can continue to transition to lower emission engines as it is economically feasible, and technology becomes available.

If we are not allowed to remain in operation with our current vessels it will devastate our family business. Our children may not be able to learn of the legacy my boyfriends grandfather created. Also, the many generations that have fished with us over the years will only be able be able to tell stories instead of sharing the experience with their family/friends. We really hope that CARB will consider a safer and more practical approach to dealing with carb emissions. We are fully in support of protecting our environment and hope to come to a compromise that will allow us to stay in business.

Thank you for listening

Jessica Karraker