

June 14, 2010

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson,

On behalf of the more than 30,000 recreational marine businesses based in Florida, the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), the nation's leading recreational marine industry trade association, applauds your leadership in introducing an amendment to extend the Net Operating Loss (NOL) Carryback period from two years to five years for tax year 2010 for impacted Gulf State companies.

As you know, the recreational boating industry and affiliated industries are a major part of Florida's tourism economy. Florida ranks first in the nation with 974,553 registered recreational boats and new retail boat sales and services with more than \$1.2 billion in expenditures on new boats, engines, trailers and marine accessories in 2009. Due to the already difficult economic environment, new boating industry sales in the state are down 50% from 2007. The boating industry supports 30,000 jobs with over 5,500 businesses in Florida, from boat dealers, boat product retailers, boat repair shops, boat rental outfits, and marinas. There are also 242 boat manufacturers in Florida supporting an additional 10,400 jobs.

The oil spill arrives at the worst possible time for marine businesses in Florida already struggling with a severe economic downturn. The economic outlook is improving and seasonal businesses were set to stabilize and grow during a busy summer boating period. However, the impact of this spill will have long-term and possibly catastrophic impacts on many of these companies in the absence of relief.

Your amendment to extend the NOL Carryback period for tax year 2010 for impacted companies will provide important, immediate cash relief to companies struggling as a direct result of this environmental disaster by allowing taxpayers to receive a capital infusion by amending prior income tax returns and receiving a refund of past taxes paid if they are in a loss situation as a result of this spill. In addition, a safe harbor provision will allow Gulf Coast fishing and tourism-related businesses with \$5 million or less in revenue to treat their operating losses as attributable to the spill.

NMMA strongly supports your amendment.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Dammrich
President

Executive Committee

Chairman, NMMA
David Slikkers
Tiara Yachts

Vice Chairman, NMMA
Jason Pajonk-Taylor
Taylor Made Products

Treasurer, NMMA
Joan Maxwell
Regulator Marine

Secretary, NMMA
Mark Schwabero
Mercury Marine

BMD Representative
John Dorton
MasterCraft Boats

EMD Representative
Paul Dierksen
Volvo Penta

AMD Representative
Fred Sherrerd
ASA Electronics

Member At-Large
Chuck Rowe
Indmar

President
Thomas J. Dammrich
NMMA