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9th February 2017

To whom it may concern,

My name is Henry Callaghan. I am the owner of Callaghan Transport located in northwest Donegal. We are in business 28 years and currently employ 25 people. We have an annual turnover of 3 million.

The aquaculture sector is vital part of our business. 80% of our business involves the transportation of live fish and fish food to various fish farms around Ireland. We are licenced by the Department of the marine for the transport of live fish and fish food.

Over the past 25 years, the aquaculture industry has been ignored by successive governments by failing to grant licences to allow this sector to expand to its full potential.

At present, Ireland is importing 45-50% of aquaculture produce to deal with the demand from our own market. To expand this sector, we would be more competitive in our own market and the export market.

All jobs in aquaculture are located in rural areas. These jobs are vital to rural families and rural community life, as there is no other employment in these rural areas. The opportunity to develop this industry is vast right now with the demand for this produce.

Due to restrictions on aquaculture sector, this has a domino effect on our business. As it is right now, our work is very seasonal and we can be out of work for 3-4 months of every year.

On the other hand, I'm pleased our minister, Michael Creed has set-up a committee to take a look at all the issues.

I have no doubt, if the minister implements changes for this sector, it will have huge benefits in a number of areas.

Yours Sincerely


Callaghan Transport