



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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HALEY BARBOUR  
GOVERNOR

February 15, 2011

The Honorable Deanna Tanner Okun  
Chairperson

The Honorable Irving A. Williamson  
Vice Chairman

The Honorable Charlotte R. Lane  
The Honorable Daniel R. Pearson  
The Honorable Shara L. Aranoff  
The Honorable Dean A. Pinkert  
Commissioners

U.S. International Trade Commission  
500 E. Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20436

Re: Frozen Warm water Shrimp and Prawns from Brazil, China, India, Thailand and  
Vietnam. Inv. No. 731-TA-1063, 1064, 1066-1068 (Review).

Dear Chairperson Okun, Vice Chairman Williamson and Commissioners:

I write to you today as an advocate of the Mississippi shrimp industry and to express my concern that revocation of the antidumping orders on shrimp from Brazil, China, India, Thailand, and Vietnam will render a devastating blow to this vital industry in my state and across the Gulf. As the Commission is charged with maintaining a level playing field for domestic industries by preventing other countries' unfair trading practices, I hope that you will vote to continue the antidumping orders that have brought protection to the fragile shrimp industry for the past five years.

The shrimp industry in Mississippi is an important sector of the economy in my state. Thousands of Mississippians are involved in the shrimp industry, and in 2009, Mississippi produced over 10 million pounds of shrimp at a landed value of almost \$13 million dollars, but contributing to a total economic impact of about \$115 million dollars. The individuals involved in the shrimp industry take great pride in their work, and shrimping has become inextricably linked to Mississippi culture. Families have worked together for generations harvesting, processing, and distributing what many consider the best shrimp in the world. Shrimping is the only way of life they know and losing the capacity to operate their businesses would leave many

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with no other source of income. I urge the Commission to continue to protect this unique industry.

Before the orders were put in place, our shrimp industry was suffering due to increasingly under-priced imports contributing to rapidly declining domestic prices, and in turn there were significant reductions in employment and revenues. Fortunately, the antidumping orders imposed by the Commission five years ago were successful and the industry has had a chance to slowly recover. As imports from the five countries have declined, domestic prices have stabilized. Moreover, in Mississippi, shrimp production has increased 26 percent since 2005. This has meant increasing revenues for the shrimp industry and the ability for processors to make capital investments to improve their facilities and efficiency. There is no question that the orders have generated a positive economic impact on an industry which employs some of the most hard-working individuals I know.

Unfortunately, if these antidumping orders are revoked, the domestic industry's progress will be lost. This industry is fragile – and having dealt with a string of disastrous events including hurricanes, the recession, and most recently the Gulf Oil Spill – I am not sure even the most resilient industry can survive if imports return at their previous levels.

While the shrimp industry in my state has been working non-stop to modernize and regain its lost market share, the governments in the subject countries have been working hard to increase their production and capacities to ensure that if the orders are revoked, they can re-enter the U.S. market with even more intensity than before, dumping an unprecedented amount of shrimp into the U.S. and devastating the domestic industry. There is no way that these small “mom & pop” operations can survive a flood of dumped imports from countries whose governments subsidize their unfair trading practices.

U.S. industries have come to rely on the work of this great Commission to protect them from unfair trade practices, and I hope that the Commission will see the seriousness of this threat and make the right decision. In conclusion, I respectfully ask that you maintain the antidumping orders on shrimp from the subject countries. Without this protection, our domestic shrimp industry will be adversely affected, and the Mississippi and the shrimp industry may not survive. However, if the orders preventing the dumping of foreign shrimp remain in place, an industry vital to the economy and culture of the entire Gulf region has the opportunity to survive in the short term and thrive in the long term.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Haley Barbour", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Haley Barbour