

STEVE SCALISE
1ST DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN WHIP

THE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1801

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February 4, 2011

The Honorable Deanna Tanner Okun
Chairman

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 Warmwater Shrimp and Prawns from Brazil, China, India, Thailand, and Vietnam, Inv. No. 731-TA-1063, 1064, 1066-1068 (Review)

Dear Chairman Okun and Commissioners,

I write to you today on behalf of my constituents in the 1st District of Louisiana and the men and women across the state of Louisiana employed in the shrimp industry to respectfully urge the Commission to vote for the continuation of the antidumping orders on shrimp from Brazil, China, India, Thailand, and Vietnam. These orders were indispensable for the survival of the domestic shrimp industry over the past five years, and their continuation would help to deter a new surge of low-priced imports from countries with unfair trading practices.

The 1st Congressional District of Louisiana encompasses some of the places hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina, including much of the metropolitan area of New Orleans and communities on the North Shore of Lake Ponchartrain. After rebuilding their businesses, in many cases from the ground up, our local shrimp industry has had to battle against the economic recession and the lingering effects of the Gulf oil spill. It is a testament to the resilience of this sector that the shrimp industry is still standing, and is still profitable, but nevertheless, the industry is vulnerable to material injury if the orders are revoked.

While Louisiana's shrimp industry has always been a major contributor to the economy, individual shrimp fishermen and processors were struggling to survive before imposition of the orders in 2005. Domestic prices for shrimp were declining to compete with low-priced imports, forcing domestic shrimpers and processors to sell their products at unsustainable prices. In turn, due to declining revenues, businesses that had been open for generations were either letting employees go or were shutting their doors.

However, the Commission determined that the domestic industry was materially injured by the foreign imports, leading to an imposition of antidumping orders in 2005. The benefits of the antidumping orders have been obvious in my district and across the state. Louisiana's shrimp industry has seen significantly increased production, higher revenues, and increased employment over the past five years. Businesses that may have considered closing five years ago have had the resources to modernize and expand, because they are confident that the price of shrimp will not plummet again with the orders in place.

Shrimping is a way of life and a family tradition in Louisiana; however, many fishermen may be forced to relinquish this heritage if the orders are revoked. The tight knit community of fishermen along the bayous and the shared experience of a family working together will be lost to the deluge of dumped foreign shrimp if the orders are revoked. Thus, for the sake of this important industry, I respectfully urge the Commission to vote in favor of continuing the antidumping orders on shrimp for five more years. These orders will give the domestic industry the confidence to grow and prosper

Sincerely,



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress