

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1802**

February 1, 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, Vice Chairman Williamson and Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of my constituents in the 2nd district of Louisiana and on behalf of the entire domestic shrimp industry in my state to express my concern that revocation of the antidumping orders on frozen warmwater shrimp from Brazil, China, India, Thailand, and Vietnam will deal a traumatic and unnecessary blow to this crucial sector of my state's economy. I am grateful for the Commission's ongoing work to protect domestic industries, ensuring they can operate and compete in a fair marketplace, and I hope that the Commission sees that these orders are necessary to ensure the survival of the Gulf's historic shrimp industry. I hope my district can continue its tradition of being a center of commerce in the Southeast, and a continuation of these antidumping orders will help make that a reality.

I have always fought on behalf of Louisiana's small businesses, including the shrimp industry. Not only as a lifelong resident of New Orleans, but also during my time as a Louisiana State Representative, representing District 101 (Orleans Parish), I witnessed first-hand the positive impact of our local shrimp industry. The majority of shrimpers, processors, and distributors in my state are small businesses, and they are truly the lifeblood of our economy. In 2009, Louisiana shrimp harvesters brought in over 113 million pounds of shrimp at a landed

value of over \$120 million dollars, but the entire economic impact from the shrimp sector has been estimated at \$1 billion dollars. This is an amazing contribution that we cannot ignore.

Unfortunately, I have also witnessed first-hand the struggle of the local community to rebuild after devastating hurricanes in 2005 and 2008, and in dealing with the impact of a recession and an unimaginable oil spill. For too long, our local shrimp industry has fought to compete with foreign companies that do not play fair. There is no way for a small, local business to take on huge companies that dump their product in our market at prices below the cost of production. On top of all the other trials the domestic shrimp industry has confronted before the imposition of the orders, illegally dumped imports were the direct cause of declining domestic prices, reduced employment in this sector, falling revenues, and reduced wages.

The Louisiana shrimp industry was saved in 2005 by the imposition of antidumping orders on illegally dumped shrimp from the subject countries. These orders are responsible for helping the domestic price of shrimp increase to sustainable levels and for curtailing the inundation of underpriced foreign imports. In turn, the shrimp industry in Louisiana has had the opportunity to get back on its feet and increase production by 13 percent from 2005 to 2009. This is evidence that the orders are working, and with the certainty imparted by a continuation of the orders, the domestic shrimpers, processors, and distributors can continue to invest in their businesses and make an impact on Louisiana's economy.

If the orders are revoked, my district will suffer a loss of revenue, employment, and most importantly, morale. These small businesses, many of which had to rebuild from scratch after the hurricanes, are too fragile to confront another impediment, and there is little doubt that the subject countries will try to flood the U.S. marketplace again with their illegally underpriced products. My constituents have spent the past five years rebuilding after the hurricanes and they have confronted the economic recession head on. Once again, they have gathered their courage and might to confront the effects of the recent Gulf oil spill, and while they have succeeded, I refuse to allow the people of New Orleans and surrounding areas to suffer again. These small businesses may be resilient, but they cannot perform miracles.

Thus, I hope that the Commission understands the urgency of my concerns and votes for a continuation of the antidumping orders on shrimp. With that support, I know that in the near future, the southeast region of Louisiana can again be one of the most vibrant and competitive in our nation.

Respectfully,



Cedric L. Richmond  
United States Representative