



Southern Shrimp Alliance

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November 22, 2017

The Honorable John Thune, Chairman
The Honorable Bill Nelson, Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Thune, Nelson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA), this is to endorse the nomination of Mr. Barry Myers for Under-Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and as the Administrator of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration.

SSA serves as the national voice for the shrimp fishermen and associated shoreside businesses in all eight shrimp producing states throughout the southeast and Gulf of Mexico regions.

We believe Mr. Myers's strategic vision, business management experience and executive leadership skills will serve to strengthen NOAA including its highly effective fishery management regime.

SSA has enjoyed a markedly constructive partnership with NOAA for many years, working to ensure the proper conservation and management of our fishery. Today our shrimp stocks are healthy – neither overfished nor subject to overfishing. Further, our bycatch of protected species has been substantially reduced and is precisely managed to be in full compliance with all applicable requirements.

Under Mr. Myers' leadership, we believe this highly successful partnership will continue to ensure that the US shrimp fishery is the most sustainable shrimp fishery in the world.

That said, no other U.S. fishery has been more unfairly or severely impacted by illegal imports than the US shrimp fishery. Illegal schemes to evade US trade laws including antidumping duties have for many years denied our fishermen a fair price for their catch and have defrauded the U.S. Treasury and taxpayers out of huge sums of uncollected anti-dumping duties.

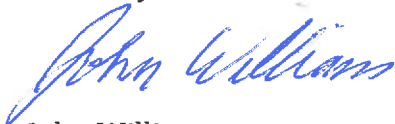
Similarly fraudulent schemes to evade FDA rules to prevent the importation of shrimp contaminated with banned antibiotics continue to deny U.S. consumers the assurance that the imported shrimp they feed their families is safe.

Once again, SSA enjoys a highly constructive partnership with NOAA and other Federal agencies to combat these sources of fraud in the shrimp import supply chain. We are confident that Mr. Myers is committed to continue these efforts including the need to implement the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) with respect to shrimp imports in a timely manner. The statements by Secretary Ross and other Administration officials make it clear to us that restoring the best interests of the US fishing industry in the realm of U.S. trade policy is a priority, and that this partnership will grow even stronger under Mr. Myers' leadership.

Overall, we believe Mr. Myers' experience and skills will enable him to be a highly successful NOAA Administrator and that his leadership will serve to further strengthen NOAA fisheries policies and programs. We urge you to support his confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely



John Williams,
Executive Director