



May 22, 2018

Ambassador Robert Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Reference: Docket No. USTR-2018-0005; Request for Public Comment Concerning Proposed Determination of Action Pursuant to Section 301: China's, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual property, and Innovation

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer,

I am writing on Behalf of the Texas Commercial Shrimping industry and would like to voice our support of Senator John Kennedy's request to President Trump to have Chinese crawfish and shrimp included in the merchandise subject to increased tariffs in any action taken under 19 U.S.C. & 2411 (Section 301).

The Texas Shrimp Association is a non profit organization since 1950 and is comprised of commercial shrimpers, affiliated businesses, wholesale and retail seafood dealers, state wide merchants, seafood processors and individuals that are concerned about the stability of our industry. An industry that has declined by 70% over the past 25 years, primarily as a result of unregulated, cheap, imported shrimp.

We agree with Senator Kennedy's statement – "Including crawfish and shrimp would provide a much-needed economic boost to the Texas seafood industry, which supplies a high quality product and considered one of the most sustainable fisheries in the world". Chinese companies have dumped inferior, sometimes fraudulent seafood products into the American marketplace, and Texas industries have suffered as a result.

Commercial seafood harvesting is the 9th most regulated industry in the U.S. , yet our Government continues to allow unregulated, undocumented, non-sustainable shrimp to flood our market –decreasing shrimp prices, making it almost impossible to compete.

As the Commercial shrimping industry struggles to stay afloat, we fear our industry will continue to decline and will no longer be able to provide quality, sustainable Wild caught American shrimp that is loved by so many Americans.

We kindly ask you to consider our request to include shrimp and crawfish in the merchandise subject to increased tariffs in action taken under 19 U.S.C. & 2411` (Section 301)

Sincerely,

Andrea Hance
Andrea Hance
Executive Director
Texas Shrimp Association