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3RD DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

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

January 28, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Secretary Rollins,

I request that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) initiate the purchase of wild-caught Gulf shrimp under Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, with priority for smaller-grade peeled undeveined product. This program has been successful since 2020, providing support to domestic fishermen who are facing difficulties due to imported seafood dumping and unfair trade practices.

Louisiana's shrimp industry is integral to both our state and national economies, supporting approximately 15,000 jobs and generating $1.3 billion in economic activity each year throughout the state. According to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana shrimpers harvest around 70 million pounds of shrimp annually. However, these 70 million pounds of shrimp are a small fraction of total U.S. shrimp consumption, with imports accounting for nearly 90%.

Our domestic shrimpers face unrighteous competition from the billions of pounds of inferior, imported shrimp that cross our borders each year from nations such as India and Indonesia, which undercut U.S. producers. In fact, recent reports show the recall of potentially radioactive imported Indonesian shrimp across scores of U.S. states. Given these circumstances, I request that you continue the USDA Commodity Procurement program under Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act for the fiscal year of 2026. In prior years, it has helped stabilize domestic shrimp prices and given shrimpers a lifeline during challenging times for the industry. Shrimping is a vital part of our economy and certainly worth supporting and conserving for future generations.

I fully support the continuation of this program and respectfully ask that you give your full and fair consideration to this request. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress