

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1806

April 6, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
The United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Secretary Perdue:

I write to thank you for working with me and directing the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to purchase up to 20,000,000 pounds of wild-caught warm-water shrimp landed in the U.S. This is much-needed news coming from the USDA as the coronavirus continues to impact everyone across the board. By supplying healthy U.S. shrimp, members of the American Shrimp Processors Association can sustain their businesses in the meantime while helping to feed those in need across the supply chain.

For decades, the U.S. shrimp industry has been plagued with unfair trade practices and is in need of support. According to the U.S. International Trade Commission, 80 percent of shrimp consumption occurs at the restaurant level¹. However, most of that market share belongs to Asian countries that have a history of dumping in our market. In 2018, U.S. imports increased 5.1 percent, overstocking the market and reducing total revenues by \$300 million². Our shrimpers and processors are competing against government-subsidized shrimp industries that, in some cases, provide export performance subsidies designed to give their producers money for exports.

¹ See U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC), Certain Frozen Warmwater Shrimp from Brazil, China, India, Thailand, and Vietnam, Inv. Nos. 731-TA-1063, 1064, 1066-1068 (Second Review), Final Staff Report (Apr. 12, 2017).

² *An Estimated 3 Million Tonnes of Shrimp Entered the International Trade in 2018, GLOBEFISH, Food, and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*, www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/market-reports/resource-detail/en/c/1199292/.

Again, thank you for your leadership and for working with us to produce meaningful results for the American people. Partnerships like this restore confidence in the American economy and provide an opportunity for shrimpers and processors to continue operating their businesses while helping to feed American families. I look forward to hearing more details about the purchase and working with you on other important issues for Louisiana's seafood and agriculture industries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Garret Graves", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Garret Graves
Member of Congress