

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHEXNAYDER, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAGLEY, BEAULLIEU, BISHOP, BOURRIAQUE, BRASS, BROWN, BUTLER, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, COUSSAN, DAVIS, DESHOTEL, DEVILLIER, EDMONDS, EDMONSTON, EMERSON, FARNUM, FIRMENT, FRIEMAN, GADBERRY, GAROFALO, GEYMAN, GLOVER, GOUDEAU, HODGES, HORTON, HUGHES, IVEY, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, JORDAN, KERNER, LACOMBE, LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCFARLAND, MCKNIGHT, MCMAHEN, MIGUEZ, GREGORY MILLER, MINCEY, MOORE, MUSCARELLO, CHARLES OWEN, ROBERT OWEN, PHELPS, PIERRE, PRESSLY, RISER, ROMERO, SCHAMERHORN, SCHLEGEL, SELDERS, ST. BLANC, STAGNI, STEFANSKI, THOMAS, THOMPSON, TURNER, WHEAT, WHITE, WRIGHT, AND ZERINGUE AND SENATORS LAMBERT AND FRED MILLS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to ban the import of shrimp and crawfish from outside the United States.

WHEREAS, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in 2019 the United States imported six billion pounds of edible seafood products, including one and one half billion pounds of shrimp, an increase of nearly six and one half million pounds more than the shrimp imported in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 shrimp imports alone, valued at six billion dollars, accounted for twenty-seven percent of the total value of imported seafood that year, which reached twenty-two billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over half of the imported seafood consumed in the United States is from aquaculture, or seafood farming, rather than wild-caught; and

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for the safety of all fish and fishery products entering the United States and sold in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 the FDA was only inspecting two percent of the seafood imported into the United States, the last year for which data regarding the percentage of imports inspected is available; and

WHEREAS, because imported seafood is not held to the same standards as domestic seafood, domestic fishing industries are put at a distinct and significant disadvantage commercially; and

WHEREAS, because labor costs are much lower overseas, peeled crawfish meat is much cheaper when imported, resulting in many entities purchasing from other countries instead of supporting the local market; and

WHEREAS, seafood imported from overseas is not always safe to consume; and

WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the average value of Louisiana shrimp fell from three dollars and eighty cents per pound in 1980 to one dollar fifty cents per pound in 2017; and

WHEREAS, unfair competition allows foreign competitors to flood the United States market with seafood harvested under intensive farming practices, while devastating local industries and coastal communities built around them; and

WHEREAS, domestically produced shrimp and crawfish offer the best option for the health and safety of United States consumers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to ban the import of shrimp and crawfish from outside the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE