

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 205

BY REPRESENTATIVE KERNER

SEAFOOD: Urges and requests the United States Department of Agriculture to utilize the Commodity Procurement program under Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act to purchase domestic shrimp from Louisiana shrimpers

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the United States Department of Agriculture to utilize the Commodity  
3 Procurement program under Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act to  
4 purchase domestic shrimp from Louisiana shrimpers.

5 WHEREAS, Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act authorizes the United  
6 States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Commodity Procurement program to purchase  
7 surplus agricultural commodities to support domestic markets and provide nutritious food  
8 to federal nutrition assistance programs; and

9 WHEREAS, Louisiana's shrimp industry is a vital component of the state's economy,  
10 culture, and heritage, supporting thousands of jobs and sustaining coastal communities; and

11 WHEREAS, Louisiana shrimpers and processors are currently facing severe  
12 economic hardship due to increased imports of foreign shrimp, rising operational costs, and  
13 market instability; and

14 WHEREAS, imported shrimp often undercuts domestic shrimp prices, placing  
15 Louisiana producers at a competitive disadvantage and threatening the long-term viability  
16 of the domestic shrimp industry; and

17 WHEREAS, under Section 32, the USDA has purchased tens of millions of dollars  
18 worth of Louisiana shrimp every year since at least 2020 as well as other domestically  
19 sourced seafood in order to support domestic fishermen, manage surplus inventory, and  
20 provide food to nutrition assistance programs, such as food banks; and

1           WHEREAS, purchasing Louisiana shrimp under Section 32 authority would provide  
2 immediate economic relief to domestic shrimpers while ensuring that high-quality,  
3 American-produced seafood reaches families in need; and

4           WHEREAS, shrimp is a nutritious, high-protein food that can be effectively  
5 incorporated into federal nutrition programs, including school meals, food banks, and  
6 emergency feeding initiatives; and

7           WHEREAS, such action would strengthen domestic food security, support  
8 sustainable fishing practices, and preserve an industry that is essential to Louisiana's coastal  
9 economy; and

10          WHEREAS, Congressman Clay Higgins, in a letter to USDA secretary Brooke  
11 Rollins in January, noted challenges domestic fishermen are facing due to imported seafood  
12 dumping and unfair trade practices; and

13          WHEREAS, the impact on Louisiana shrimpers, should the USDA fail to purchase  
14 shrimp for 2026, will be dire as the USDA purchase provides crucial stability for domestic  
15 shrimp prices for the entire 2026 season; and

16          WHEREAS, exceptionally high fuel costs combined with the influx of imported  
17 seafood from foreign countries have led to challenging times for hardworking Americans,  
18 and the USDA Commodity Procurement program will provide a much needed lifeline to  
19 sustain the shrimp industry for the 2026 season.

20          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
21 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the USDA to utilize its Section 32  
22 authority to purchase Louisiana shrimp and prioritize domestic seafood in its procurement  
23 programs.

24          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the USDA is encouraged to work with  
25 Louisiana's shrimp industry stakeholders to ensure efficient procurement, processing, and  
26 distribution of domestically harvested shrimp.

27          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
28 secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Louisiana congressional  
29 delegation.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 205 Original

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Kerner

Urges and requests the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to utilize the Commodity Procurement program under Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act to purchase domestic shrimp from La. shrimpers.