

TROY A. CARTER, SR.  
2ND DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY,  
*RANKING MEMBER*  
CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
PROTECTION

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS  
2ND VICE CHAIR

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

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEES:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS  
MATERIALS

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL  
REGION 7

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

I write to you today as the Member of Congress from Louisiana's second congressional district to ask for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's assistance for Louisiana's crawfish farmers devastated from extreme weather conditions, characterized by both a severe drought and a subsequent freeze that has wreaked havoc on our state's agricultural landscape. The crawfish aquaculture industry, which holds a special place in the hearts of Louisianans, has been particularly hard-hit. The adverse weather has led to significant losses, affecting countless farmers and their families who depend on the success of this industry.

Crawfish aquaculture is more than just a product in Louisiana; it is a way of life. Generations of farmers have dedicated themselves to this time-honored tradition, and the recent events have resulted in financial setbacks and dealt a blow to the cultural fabric of our state. The crawfish industry is intertwined with our identity, and its preservation is crucial for the sustenance of our unique way of life. That way of life is at risk due to this year's losses.

I urge the Department of Agriculture to expedite any available assistance programs and resources to support our farmers in overcoming the challenges posed by these adverse weather conditions. The allocation of emergency relief funds, technical assistance, and any other measures within the department's purview would go a long way in helping our agricultural community recover from these unprecedented setbacks. I specifically ask the Department of Agriculture encourage the Agricultural Extension Services within Louisiana to proactively reach out to the crawfish aquaculture industry to spread awareness of available assistance.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to supporting the small business sector. As we work together to address the aftermath of these natural disasters, I am confident that we can provide the necessary assistance to ensure the resilience and recovery of our crawfish aquaculture industry.

Sincerely,



Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress

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2ND DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

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REGION 7

The Honorable Isabel Casillas Guzman  
Secretary, United States Small Business Administration  
409 3rd ST., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Isabel Casillas Guzman,

I write to you today as the Member of Congress from Louisiana's second congressional district to request that the U.S. Small Business Administration provide assistance to the crawfish aquaculture industry in Louisiana. The resilience and success of our local businesses are integral to the overall prosperity and stability of our state. The recent drought and other unforeseen challenges have significantly impacted small businesses, including seafood markets, grocers, and restaurants in this industry.

Crawfish aquaculture is more than just a product in Louisiana; it is a way of life. Generations of farmers have dedicated themselves to this time-honored tradition, and the recent events have resulted in financial setbacks and dealt a blow to the cultural fabric of our state. The crawfish industry is intertwined with our identity, and its preservation is crucial for the sustenance of our unique way of life. That way of life is at risk due to this year's losses.

I urge the Small Business Administration to provide comprehensive technical support to our local crawfish aquaculture industry including assistance in applying for available SBA financing. Many entrepreneurs are facing unprecedented challenges and navigating complex regulations, hindering their ability to thrive. By offering technical assistance, we can empower these businesses with the knowledge and tools necessary to overcome these obstacles and emerge stronger.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to supporting the small business sector. As we work together to address the aftermath of these natural disasters, I am confident that we can provide the necessary assistance to ensure the resilience and recovery of our crawfish aquaculture industry.

Sincerely,



Member of Congress