

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2025

The Honorable Jamieson L. Greer
United States Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ambassador Greer and Secretary Lutnick:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the ongoing harm inflicted upon the U.S. domestic shrimp industry due to unfair trade practices and non-reciprocal trade agreements. American shrimpers have long played a crucial role in our Louisiana and national economies, providing jobs, supporting coastal communities, and ensuring a reliable domestic seafood supply. In particular, Louisiana's proud shrimp industry has led the United States in shrimp production, averaging about 100 million pounds in annual landings and nearly 50% of the Gulf shrimp landings over the past 25 years. However, the continuous influx of unfairly subsidized and low-cost imported shrimp has placed this industry in an untenable position.

For years, foreign competitors have benefited from government subsidies, lax labor and environmental regulations, and non-reciprocal market access, enabling them to flood the U.S. market with artificially cheap farm-raised shrimp. These unfair trade practices undermine our domestic producers, who operate under regulatory standards that protect workers, consumers, and the environment. As a result, American shrimpers are struggling to compete, leading to economic distress in Louisiana's coastal communities reliant on this industry.

Enforcing existing trade laws and pursuing fair and reciprocal trade agreements are critical to restoring a level playing field. I urge your offices to:

1. Strengthen enforcement mechanisms to combat illegal subsidies and unfair dumping practices by foreign shrimp exporters.
2. Advocate for stronger trade agreements that ensure reciprocal market access and prevent further economic harm to the domestic shrimp industry.
3. Support increased transparency and monitoring of imported seafood to ensure compliance with U.S. labor, environmental, and food safety standards.
4. Explore avenues for relief to aid domestic shrimpers who have suffered financial losses due to trade distortions.

The ongoing economic decline of the U.S. shrimp industry is not just a question of trade policy; it also poses a significant national economic and food security issue. We must take decisive action to support our domestic producers and ensure that international trade agreements emphasize fairness and reciprocity.

I appreciate your attention to this pressing matter and look forward to working with you to safeguard the interests of American shrimpers.

Sincerely,



Troy A. Carter Sr.
Member of Congress