

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 205

BY REPRESENTATIVE KERNER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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