

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 78

BY REPRESENTATIVES DOMANGUE, BRAUD, BRYANT, GEYMANN, KERNER,  
MACK, ORGERON, AND ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the  
American Seafood Competitiveness Act of 2026.

WHEREAS, Louisiana's commercial fisheries are a vital part of the state's culture  
and economy, with one out of every seventy jobs in the state related to the seafood industry  
and an economic impact of over two billion dollars annually for Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, commercial fishing industries in the state have faced increasing pressure  
from imported products and their impact on the domestic seafood market; and

WHEREAS, the American Seafood Competitiveness Act of 2026, an important step  
in fulfilling President Trump's Executive Order on Restoring American Seafood  
Competitiveness, expands access to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) loans,  
grants, and credit programs for commercial fishing and seafood processing businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Act would amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development  
Act to include commercial fishing and fish processing as activities eligible for USDA  
programs; and

WHEREAS, the Act would include wild-caught fish and shellfish as eligible  
agricultural products under the USDA's Local Agriculture Market Program; and

WHEREAS, under the Act, commercial fishermen would be eligible for USDA farm  
ownership loans, which they could use to purchase commercial fishing licenses and vessels,  
and for farm operating loans, which they could use to cover operating and maintenance  
costs; and

WHEREAS, under the Act, fish processors would also be eligible for farm ownership loans, which they could use to acquire or upgrade processing facilities, and for farm operating loans, which they could use to help address the significant operating and maintenance costs that continue to rise; and

WHEREAS, the Act would extend eligibility for farm credit to those businesses that provide services to commercial fishermen and fish processing facilities so that businesses and rural communities that rely on the coastal fishing economy would gain an additional option to finance their businesses in the same way that businesses and communities that rely on the farming economy do; and

WHEREAS, to ensure effective implementation, the Act further directs the USDA to conduct outreach, provide technical assistance, train agency staff, and coordinate with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other federal and state agencies to make sure the USDA programs are accessible to the commercial fishing industry; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's commercial fishermen and processors, as well as the coastal communities they support, would gain improved access to capital, strengthened domestic seafood markets, and support for the long-term competitiveness of domestic commercial fishing and processing.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the American Seafood Competitiveness Act of 2026.

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