

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY REPRESENTATIVE KERNER

AQUACULTURE: Urges and requests the president of the United States to reconsider the signed agreement that facilitates growth of certain aquaculture exports from Ecuador to the United States

1   A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2    To urge and request the president of the United States to reconsider the signed agreement  
3           that facilitates growth of certain aquaculture exports from Ecuador to the United  
4           States.

5           WHEREAS, on August 18, 2022, the United States Food and Drug Administration  
6    (FDA) signed a confidentiality commitment with Ecuador's vice minister of Aquaculture and  
7    Fisheries (VAP) within the Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries  
8    of the Republic of Ecuador; and

9           WHEREAS, the purpose of the confidentiality commitment or agreement is to allow  
10   for the exchange of confidential information, including inspection of records, draft  
11   rulemaking and guidance, and other nonpublic documents; and

12           WHEREAS, the agreement with Ecuador is designed to ensure the safety of shrimp  
13   imported to the United States and offers guarantees for aquaculture exports to the United  
14   States; and

15           WHEREAS, according to an article from the seafood industry's trade publication  
16   Seafood Source, in the first six months of 2022, Ecuador exported at least one billion one  
17   hundred million pounds of shrimp abroad at that time, with the United States being its  
18   second-biggest market; and

1           WHEREAS, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in  
2 2020, the United States imported approximately one billion six hundred million pounds of  
3 shrimp, an increase of up to seven and one half percent from 2019; and

4           WHEREAS, in 2022, Ecuador was the second leading source of shrimp exports to  
5 the United States, after India, exporting four hundred forty-one million pounds of shrimp to  
6 the United States, according to Seafood Source; and

7           WHEREAS, according to the 2021-2022 annual report from the Louisiana  
8 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, shrimp are the state's most valuable fishery; and

9           WHEREAS, the average real dockside value of Louisiana shrimp fell from one dollar  
10 and ninety-three cents per pound in 2000 to one dollar and three cents per pound in 2018;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, this unfair competition allows foreign competitors to flood the United  
13 States market, devastating local industries.

14           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
15 urge and request the president of the United States to reconsider an agreement signed with  
16 Ecuador that facilitates growth of certain aquaculture exports from Ecuador to the United  
17 States.

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
19 White House and to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representative of  
20 the Congress of the United States and to each member of the Louisiana congressional  
21 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)]

---

HCR 29 Original

2023 Regular Session

Kerner

Urges and requests the president of the United States to reconsider the agreement signed with Ecuador that facilitates growth of certain aquaculture exports from Ecuador to the United States.