

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHEXNAYDER

SEAFOOD: Memorializes Congress to ban the import of shrimp and crawfish from outside the U.S.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to ban the
3 import of shrimp and crawfish from outside the United States.

4 WHEREAS, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in
5 2019 the United States imported six billion pounds of edible seafood products, including one
6 and one half billion pounds of shrimp, an increase of nearly six and one half million pounds
7 more than the shrimp imported in 2018; and

8 WHEREAS, the 2019 shrimp imports alone, valued at six billion dollars, accounted
9 for twenty-seven percent of the total value of imported seafood that year, which reached
10 twenty-two billion dollars; and

11 WHEREAS, it is estimated that over half of the imported seafood consumed in the
12 United States is from aquaculture, or seafood farming, rather than wild-caught; and

13 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible
14 for the safety of all fish and fishery products entering the United States and sold in
15 Louisiana; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2011 the FDA was only inspecting two percent of the seafood
17 imported into the United States, the last year for which data regarding the percentage of
18 imports inspected is available; and

19 WHEREAS, because imported seafood is not held to the same standards as domestic
20 seafood, domestic fishing industries are put at a distinct and significant disadvantage
21 commercially; and

1 WHEREAS, because labor costs are much lower overseas, peeled crawfish meat is
2 much cheaper when imported, resulting in many entities purchasing from other countries
3 instead of supporting the local market; and

4 WHEREAS, seafood imported from overseas is not always safe to consume; and

5 WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the
6 average value of Louisiana shrimp fell from three dollars and eighty cents per pound in 1980
7 to one dollar fifty cents per pound in 2017; and

8 WHEREAS, unfair competition allows foreign competitors to flood the United States
9 market with seafood harvested under intensive farming practices, while devastating local
10 industries and coastal communities built around them; and

11 WHEREAS, domestically produced shrimp and crawfish offer the best option for the
12 health and safety of United States consumers.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
14 memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to ban the
15 import of shrimp and crawfish from outside the United States.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
17 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
18 United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional 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 113 Original

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Schexnayder

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