

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY REPRESENTATIVES KERNER AND GAROFALO AND SENATORS ABRAHAM, CLOUD, CONNICK, FESI, HENSGENS, JACKSON, KLEINPETER, LAMBERT, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, POPE, SMITH, AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the White House and to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE