



LOUISIANA SHRIMP ASSOCIATION

Acy J. Cooper, Jr., President

42941 Hwy 23 Venice, La. 70091

504-912-0150

December 21, 2017

The Honorable John Culberson
United States House of Representatives
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Culberson,

I am writing as President of the Louisiana Shrimp Association to ask for your help to protect the American consumer and level the playing field for our domestic shrimp industry.

Thanks to the leadership of Senators Thad Cochran, Richard Shelby, and Bill Cassidy, there is language in Section 513 of the upcoming FY 18 Commerce Justice Science bill requiring that shrimp be included in the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) like all other imported seafood species. When the final SIMP rule was published in late 2016 by the Obama Administration, shrimp were not fully included, and with this change they would be.

The goal of SIMP is to *"better facilitate data collection, sharing, and analysis among relevant regulators and enforcement authorities to prevent the entry of illegal goods including illegally harvested or produce seafood into U.S. commerce."* Shrimp are 65 percent of the U.S. seafood imports, and it is the right thing to do, to insist that imported shrimp comply with full traceability like all other covered species.

Clearly, the goal of this program is to level the playfield for U.S. seafood producers, and shrimp need to be included. Senator Bill Cassidy organized and Senator John Kennedy signed an 11 Senator letter supporting this policy April 2017, which is also included in this email.

Help us make sure the voice of the American shrimp industry is heard. By supporting this language in the CJS bill requiring that shrimp be included, you will be helping promote the health and safety of the American shrimp consumer and the economic well-being of our domestic shrimp industry. Please see the enclosed fact sheet for more details.

Sincerely,



Acy J. Cooper, Jr.

President