

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2405

October 18, 2024

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND
ADMINISTRATION

The Honorable Amy A. Karpel
Chair
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20436

Re: Frozen Warmwater Shrimp from Ecuador, India, Indonesia, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Inv.
Nos. 701-TA-699-702 and 731-TA-1659-1660 (Final)

Dear Chair Karpel:

I am writing to express my strong support for the petitions filed by the domestic shrimp industry and strongly encourage the Commission to reach an affirmative finding of injury on imports of frozen warmwater shrimp from Ecuador, India, Indonesia, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

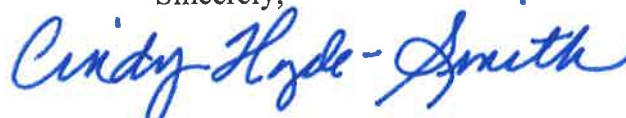
The seafood industry contributes hundreds of millions of dollars to Mississippi's economy and employs thousands of people. This industry is particularly important because it is geographically concentrated on our coast, an area full of small, family-owned shrimp fishing and processing operations that have been handed down from generation to generation.

Our Mississippi harvesters of the sea face continuous economic challenges from overseas producers who do not play by the rules. Recent revelations of child and slave labor working conditions on foreign shrimp farms provide a stark example of how far some producers will go to obtain an economic advantage. Shrimp production practices, such as the use of illegal drugs and chemicals, perpetuated in Ecuador, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam undermine the health of American consumers and persist because of lax inspection of imports. These factors contribute to an unbelievably low cost of production with which U.S. producers, who operate according to the highest standards in the world, cannot compete.

These new shrimp investigations demonstrate the dire crisis facing our shrimp industry. Many of our processors have had to idle or sell equipment and lower production volume. Some of our shrimp harvesters have had to tie up their boats because prices simply cannot support the fishing expenses. Trade relief is very important to try to arrest the serious negative impacts of these illegally dumped and subsidized imports and to help level the playing field for hardworking American shrimpers.

I appreciate your service on the Commission and, on behalf of the Mississippi families that make their living in our shrimp industry, thank you for your careful consideration of their petitions for relief.

Sincerely,



CINDY HYDE-SMITH
United States Senator