

By: Louderback, Leo Wilson

H.C.R. No. 76

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The shrimp industry plays a vital role in the
2 nation's economy and in the prosperity of Gulf Coast communities,
3 where domestic shrimp are harvested and processed; and

4 WHEREAS, In Texas, the industry supports more than 14,000
5 jobs, generating approximately \$850 million in economic value;
6 however, a glut of foreign shrimp imports threatens this industry
7 with collapse; and

8 WHEREAS, Imports of frozen warmwater shrimp nearly doubled
9 between 2013 and 2021 to an unprecedented 1.8 billion pounds; data
10 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration indicates
11 that Texas shrimpers harvested 6.8 million pounds of shrimp in the
12 first five months of 2023, compared to 800 million pounds of
13 imported shrimp in the first half of the year; and

14 WHEREAS, Much of the foreign shrimp is farm-raised and
15 subsidized in order to let producers sharply undercut the price of
16 domestic shrimp; the problem has been well documented since 2005,
17 when the International Trade Commission determined that imports
18 from certain countries were selling at less than fair value, and
19 this continues to occur, despite antidumping regulations; and

20 WHEREAS, While the influx of imported shrimp has driven
21 prices to record lows, Gulf Coast fishermen must contend with the
22 forces of inflation, including historically high fuel prices; it
23 typically costs a trawler tens of thousands of dollars to go out to
24 sea, so many remained tied up at the docks; a severe labor shortage

1 has exacerbated the crisis; and

2 WHEREAS, Imported shrimp pose a significant risk to public
3 health; a 2015 investigation by *Consumer Reports* found dangerous
4 bacteria, antibiotics, and drug residues in more than half of the
5 shrimp they tested from Ecuador and India; however, the Food and
6 Drug Administration inspects less than one percent of imported
7 seafood for banned substances; in addition, many seafood products
8 that fail inspections at U.S. ports of entry are simply rerouted by
9 suppliers to other ports where they might not be inspected; and

10 WHEREAS, The sustainability of the domestic shrimp industry
11 is crucial to the survival of many small, family-owned businesses
12 and to the stability of Gulf Coast communities, but this important
13 economic engine is currently imperiled by unfair foreign
14 competition and other rising challenges; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
16 hereby urge the federal government to curb the mass importation of
17 foreign shrimp into the United States to protect the Gulf Coast
18 shrimping industry from unfair competition and to protect consumers
19 from substandard shrimp that does not meet U.S. health standards;
20 and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Texas Secretary of State forward official
22 copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to
23 the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and to the
24 Assistant Administrator for Fisheries National Oceanic and
25 Atmospheric Administration.