

Office of the Lieutenant Governor
State of Louisiana

BILLY NUNGESSER
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June 26, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The President
United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington DC, 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I hope this letter finds you well. I recently read an article in the Bangor Daily News regarding a memorandum you signed earlier this week calling on the US Department of Agriculture to make subsidies available to the lobster industry professionals due to the financial loss from Chinese tariffs. While I applaud your efforts to support our lobstermen, I'd like to point out that these hardships are felt throughout the Gulf South seafood industry as well. The commercial fisheries industry of Louisiana and the gulf coast states, is a vital part to our economies. They provide jobs, income and tax revenue. In Louisiana alone, the seafood industry has an economic impact of over \$2.4 billion annually.

In addition to large quantities of imported Chinese seafood and crawfish, our fishermen have faced devastating blows that have impacted our seafood economy at an equal, if not more, devastating level. There have been a series of disasters including multiple hurricanes, floods, the oil spills, as well as the unexpected opening of our spillways that have negatively impacted both the supply and demand sides of the seafood economy. Countless livelihoods are being negatively impacted.

I am disappointed that you did not offer similar relief to those in the seafood industry in the states of Louisiana, Florida, Texas, Mississippi and Alabama. Our markets have been inundated with cheap, often unhealthy imports. These imports have been detrimental to the prices our fishermen can demand for their hauls thereby tilting the playing field making it more difficult for them to compete. The waters off the coast of my state help to feed America. We can no longer sit back and ignore their plight.

Therefore, I respectfully request that you add Gulf Coast Seafood to your plans for aid to our seafood industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Billy Nungesser".

Billy Nungesser
Lieutenant Governor