

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 17, 2003

Chair rec'd 12/23/03

✓ 1 - secretary
2 - ER

The Honorable Deanna Tanner Okun
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20436

731-TA-1063-1068(P)

Dear Chairman Okun:

As you know, it is quite possible that the Southern Shrimp Alliance will soon file with the federal government antidumping/countervailing duty petitions against its competitors overseas. We are writing to urge your opposition to such a punitive response.

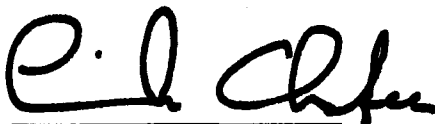
American consumers are purchasing shrimp at all-time record levels, and domestic shrimp supplies are not nearly adequate to satisfy this growing demand. Since domestic shrimp fishermen cannot meet increasing demand, the U.S. has increasingly come to depend on imported shrimp. Primary exporting countries include some of our strongest trading partners and other key nations worldwide. Shrimp exports are also critical to economic development in several less developed countries in Latin America and Southeast Asia.

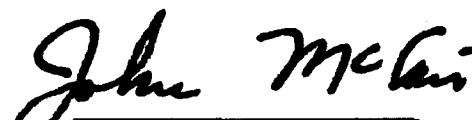
Shrimp prices in the U.S. have declined as efficient supplies have increased. And these lower shrimp prices have benefited the entire domestic distribution chain, which employs thousands of workers in distributing and selling shrimp to American consumers. Shrimp is widely advertised as a promotional item in grocery stores and family-oriented, moderately priced restaurants. As consumption increases, the sales of many other items also increase. These important national economic benefits will be lost if the supply of shrimp is curbed.

Trade barriers such as these potential petitions, will not reduce the production costs of domestic fishermen, produce adequate supplies of shrimp, or help domestic fishermen remain competitive in the long term. There is no evidence that dumping of shrimp or any other form of unfair trade is occurring, despite repeated protestations that this is the case. What's more, a trade war that could result from these barriers would be destructive, expensive, diversionary, and not likely decisive. For all of these reasons, we urge you to oppose these antidumping/countervailing duty petitions with respect to imported shrimp.

Should you have any questions, please let us know. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Lincoln D. Chafee


John McCain

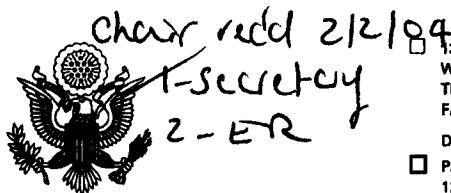
PETE SESSIONS
32ND DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON RULES

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY**

**COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES
(ON LEAVE)**

**RESULTS CAUCUS
CHAIRMAN**



1318 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4332
TELEPHONE: 202.225.2231
FAX: 202.225.5878

DISTRICT OFFICE:

PARK CENTRAL VII
12750 MERIT DRIVE
SUITE 1434
DALLAS, TEXAS 75251
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web page: www.house.gov/sessions/

**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

January 24, 2004

The Honorable Donald L. Evans
Secretary of Commerce
Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230-0001

731-TA-1063-1068(P)

04 FEB -2 P 3:29

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Secretary Evans:

I am writing to bring your attention to an urgent matter that threatens to reduce the domestically available supply of shrimp, a critically important and popular menu item for our nation's restaurants and consumers.

On December 31, 2003, a group of domestic shrimp fishermen and processors filed a petition asking the Commerce Department to impose antidumping duties on shrimp imported from Brazil, China, Ecuador, India, Thailand and Vietnam. America's restaurants and customers rely heavily on imports from these countries, because domestic shrimp fishermen are unable to catch enough shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic to meet domestic demand at an affordable price.

Because the U.S. catch of shrimp is constrained by the fluctuating productivity of the ocean environment, imports are the only economically reasonable source for meeting the ever-increasing U.S. demand for shrimp. Imports currently account for 90 percent of the annual U.S. demand for shrimp. Further, overseas producers mainly raise shrimp in farms, rather than harvest it from the ocean, supplying US consumers with competitively priced, high quality, consistent product year-round.

The petitioners have asked the Commerce Department to impose additional duties ranging from 30 percent to over 200 percent on the targeted imports. If these duties are imposed, imported shrimp prices would become prohibitive and insufficient quantities of domestic shrimp, at any price, would be available to meet customer demand.

The only alternative to this situation would be to significantly raise menu prices and pass the additional costs along to our customers, or to remove a popular item from menus that consumers have made the most popular seafood in the United States.

Mr. Secretary, US restaurants and consumers should not be forced to subsidize an industry that is incapable of supplying the domestic market with enough shrimp to meet domestic demand. Further, economic studies have determined that over 80,000 American jobs

are associated with the importation, further processing, distribution and retail sale of shrimp – all of which will be jeopardized if this tariff is levied. **I urge you, during consideration of this anti-free trade petition, to bear in mind all of the American jobs that would be lost and the overall economic impact that this tariff would have on the country.**

I appreciate your attention to this matter. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Saltzman of my staff at 202.225.2231 or Josh.Saltzman@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Pete Sessions

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

PS/js

cc: ITC Chairman Deanna Okun ✓
USTR Ambassador Robert Zoellick

TO: Honorable Marilyn R. Abbot
Secretary, USITC
Fax No. (202) 205-2104

From: Jim Marchand
Advisor on Natural Resources
Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana
Phone: 225 342-0410

DOCKET

Re: Correspondence on Certain Frozen and Canned Shrimp

731-TA-1063-1068 (P)

Please find attached correspondence from Governor Kathleen B. Blanco, State of Louisiana on the above referenced trade action. Should you have any questions, please call me at (225) 342-0410.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

04 JAN 21 08:54

RECEIVED
STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RIC KELLER
8TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE:
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
EDUCATION REFORM
21ST CENTURY COMPETITIVENESS
WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS

COMMITTEE:
JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
CRIME, TERRORISM, AND
HOMELAND SECURITY
COURTS, THE INTERNET AND
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Honorable Deanna Tanner Okun
Chairman
US International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

chair rec'd 2/2/04
1 - Secretary
2 - ER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0908

January 21, 2004

13-FTA-1063-1068(P)

419 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0908
(202) 225-2176
FAX: (202) 225-0999

DISTRICT OFFICE:
605 EAST ROBINSON STREET
SUITE 650
ORLANDO, FL 32801
(407) 872-1962
FAX: (407) 872-1944

www.house.gov/keller

04 FEB -2 P 3:29

RECEIVED
OFC OF THE SECRETARY
US INTERNATIONAL TRADE COM

Dear Chairman Okun:

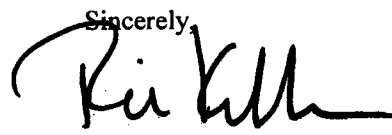
I am writing to you regarding the anti-dumping petition recently filed against shrimp imports. I am concerned my local restaurants that rely on shrimp imports to supply their businesses will be adversely impacted.

On December 31, 2003, a petition was filed asking the Commerce Department to impose antidumping duties on shrimp imported from Brazil, China, Ecuador, India, Thailand and Vietnam. Many restaurants in my Congressional district rely heavily on imports from these countries because domestic shrimp fishermen are unable to catch enough shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic to meet their needs. Imports currently account for 90 percent of the annual U.S. demand for shrimp. Further, overseas producers mainly raise shrimp in farms, rather than harvest it from the ocean. They are thus able to supply the restaurant industry year-round with competitively priced, high quality, consistent product.

It is my understanding that petitioners have asked the Commerce Department to impose additional duties ranging from 30 percent to over 200 percent on the targeted imports. If these duties are imposed, I fear restaurants in my district would have to significantly raise menu prices in an effort to pass the additional costs of the limited domestic shrimp along to customers or remove an item that U.S. consumers have made the most popular seafood in the United States.

I believe anti-dumping duties will not materially improve the economic condition of the domestic shrimp industry or make it more competitive. It will simply raise the price of shrimp to U.S. citizens and take shrimp away from millions of Americans.

Thank you for your assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Ric Keller
Member of Congress

HOWARD L. BERMAN
28TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

**COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY**
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COURTS, THE INTERNET
AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
IMMIGRATION AND CLAIMS

**COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
THE MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

February 12, 2004

chair rec'd 2/23/04
✓ 1 - Secretary
2 - ER

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Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0528
202-225-4695

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14546 Hamlin Street, Suite 202
Van Nuys, CA 91411-4128
818-994-7200

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The Honorable Deanna Tanner Okun
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20436

Re: Investigation Nos. 731-TA-1063-1068

Dear Chairman Okun:

I am writing to urge the Commission to fully consider the effects a decision in favor of the petitioners will have on American shrimp importers, processors, and distributors in the case concerning certain frozen and canned warmwater shrimp.

A decision for the petitioners risks the loss of thousands of American jobs. Efficiently produced supplies of imported shrimp sustain small businesses across the nation. These companies employ thousands of workers who earn good wages and benefits. In Los Angeles, immigrant entrepreneurs have established shrimp importing, processing, and distributing businesses that provide jobs for thousands of hard working residents. A Commission determination in favor of the petitioners will have disastrous effects on these businesses and their employees.

Because the Commerce Department has excluded all value-added shrimp from the scope of the investigation, a finding in favor of the petitioners may induce deleterious market shifts that threaten the viability of the domestic shrimp processing industry. If duties are imposed on the importation of unprocessed shrimp, foreign exporters might enter production of non-subject finished goods and flood the domestic market with breaded shrimp and other value-added shrimp products. The resulting price pressure would sap profits and possibly force domestic shrimp processors out of the market, thus causing the further loss of American jobs.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

HOWARD L. BERMAN
Member of Congress

HLB/vs

RECEIVED
FEB 23 11:40
04

PAUL S. SARBANES
MARYLAND

char rcd 2/26/04
1 - Secretary
2 - ER

309 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
202-224-4524

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2002

ER - FEB 26 2004 - 023

February 10, 2004

Ms. Brenda Becker
Assistant Secretary For Legislative and
Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Commerce
Room 5421
14th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Ms. Nancy Carman
Congressional Relations Officer
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, S.W.
Room 716
Washington, D.C. 20436

Dear Ms. Becker and Ms. Carman:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I received from Service Transport, Inc., a respected company located in Maryland and a member of the American Seafood Distributors Association. The letter expresses strong opposition to the shrimp antidumping petition filed with the International Trade Commission and the U.S. Department of Commerce. It is a carefully reasoned letter, and I urge you to give it your serious attention. I would greatly appreciate it if you would provide me with an appropriate response.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Paul Sarbanes
United States Senator

PSS/ekw
Enclosure

P.O. Box 10
Federalsburg, MD 21632



410-754-3100
800-822-6077
Fax 410-754-8169

January 14, 2004

The Honorable Paul Sarbanes
United States Senate
Suite 309
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sarbanes,

Our company, Service Transport, Inc., is a member of the American Seafood Distributors Association (ASDA), a non-profit trade association that represents a broad range of "water-to-table" businesses that derive their living from the free trade of seafood in the international marketplace.

The purpose of this letter is to state our strong opposition to the shrimp antidumping petition filed by the Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA) on December 31, 2003 against six countries (Brazil, China, Ecuador, India, Thailand and Vietnam) and to express our hope that we at Service Transport, Inc. will be able to work with you and your staff to help ensure that this very complex dumping case is handled as carefully and as fairly as possible.

While the SSA represents domestic harvester and processor interests from eight Gulf and South Atlantic states, we would like to make you aware that ASDA member companies represent "the other domestic industry": Our membership represents the smallest "mom-and-pop" companies to the largest U.S. corporations—all with interests nationwide. We are the companies that buy and sell seafood and we are the people who offload cargo, work with U.S. Customs and handle the logistics of cold storage and trucking. We are also the companies that process, distribute, wholesale and retail seafood, as well as the restaurants that serve it as a center-of-the-plate or appetizer item. Collectively, this "other domestic industry" employs 100,000 workers whose jobs are directly or indirectly tied to the importing and exporting of seafood. We feel it is time that our voices get heard.

We at Service Transport, Inc. are worried about the negative affect that high tariffs, if ultimately applied in this case, will have not just on our company, *but on the American consumer who benefits from having access to this popular seafood product.* Shrimp is now firmly entrenched as the top-selling seafood in the United States, with imported product supplying 90 percent of U.S. demand. Today, shrimp imports represent a \$3.6 billion business, and businesses involved with imports generate \$9.8 billion in economic activity, according to a 2003 study conducted by Thomas J. Murray Associates.

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Most of the domestic shrimp supply is ocean-caught, with harvesting a seasonal activity-subject to regulations, fuel costs and weather. In contrast, most of the shrimp that is imported into the United States is farmed.

Today, shrimp farming has become a highly efficient global business, offering economies of scale, full traceability of product and year-round harvesting. The phenomenal success of shrimp is not the result of dumping, but rather can be directly attributed to the availability of consistent, high-quality, uniform-sized product and other efficiencies that result in lower costs and greater availability of a product that was once considered a luxury item.

ASDA members strongly believe that *both* domestic ocean-caught shrimp and imported seafood products have an important role to play in the ongoing supply of a healthy source of protein for people nationwide, as well as in the creation of a robust domestic and international economy.

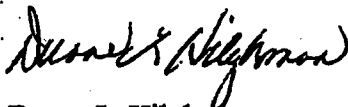
As you consider the facts of this case, it is important to keep in mind the fact that, while the U.S. industry has a key role to play in supplying seafood to American consumers, supplies of domestic product cannot be increased. *We need imports to supply the growing demand for this nutritious and popular seafood product. Imports fuel demand and build a "platform" for domestic product.*

In the weeks ahead, we would like to work with you and your staff to drive this message home, particularly to the International Trade Commission and the Department of Commerce. We also hope you can convey the message that *no decisions* should be made that will unfairly penalize both the exporters and ASDA member companies involved in this complex case, making it harder for them to fairly compete in the U.S. market.

Our company is greatly concerned about the implications of this case going forward, because the impacts on U.S. businesses such as ours will be significant and detrimental. Our 150+ employees are concerned about the implications of this on their jobs and future growth of our company.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to staying in touch with you on this issue in the days ahead and to providing you the information you may need.

Sincerely,



Duane L. Hilghman
President

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
Subcommittee on Capital Markets,
Insurance, and Government
Sponsored Enterprises
Subcommittee on Financial Institutions
and Consumer Credit

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Subcommittee on Livestock and
Horticulture

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY
Subcommittee on Emergency
Preparedness and Response
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity,
Science, and Research & Development



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

KEN LUCAS

FOURTH DISTRICT, KENTUCKY

February 20, 2004

Chair recd 2/25/04
✓ 1-Secretary
2-ER

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1205 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515
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277 Buttermilk Pike
Fort Mitchell, KY 41017
(859) 426-0080

Fed. Bldg., Suite 236
1405 Greenup Ave.
Ashland, KY 41101
(606) 324-9898

The Honorable Deanna Tanner Okun, Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E. St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Deanna:

231-TA-1063-1068(P)

I am writing on behalf of Yum Brands, Inc., whose headquarters are located in my district. In particular, I am concerned about the alleged Southern Shrimp Alliance antidumping/countervailing duties petition with the U.S. Government.

As you know, shrimp is the most popular seafood item with American consumers. Shrimp consumption per person has increased from 2.5 pounds per person in 1993 to 3.7 pounds in 2002. One theory for the increase in consumption is the reduction in the price of shrimp. Yum Brands is concerned that the reason for the reduction in price is being misconstrued and that the actual cause is the efficiencies inherent in the aquaculture of shrimp.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ken Lucas

Member of Congress

KL:in2

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
US INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
04 FEB 26 AM 5:56

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

RECEIVED 3/15/04

March 9, 2004

The Honorable Donald L. Evans
Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce
14th & Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Accepted per chairman office
3/17/04 pommic

The Honorable Deanna Tanner Okun
Chairwoman, U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E St, SW
Washington, DC 20436

701TA-1063

RECEIVED
INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
04 MAR 16 2:51

Dear Secretary Evans and Chairwoman Okun:

As you know, the Southern Shrimp Alliance has filed an antidumping/countervailing duties petition with the U.S. government. We urge you to oppose the punitive response demanded by the petitioners.

Shrimp is the most popular seafood item with American consumers. Shrimp consumption per person has increased from 2.5 pounds per person in 1993 to 3.7 pounds in 2002. Today, 9 out of 10 pounds of shrimp on the plates of American families is imported. This sourcing is not just a matter of price, but one of supply. The wild caught shrimp fishery in the U.S. is unable to keep up with demand that has almost doubled in 10 years.

The reduction in shrimp prices has driven the increase in consumption. However, the price drop should not automatically be assumed to be caused by dumping. Efficiencies in the aquaculture production of shrimp may well enable foreign producers to deliver shrimp into the U.S. marketplace at prices below those needed by the U.S. wild shrimp industry to be profitable.

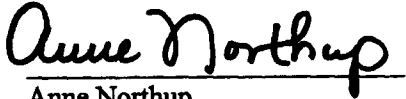
Lower price shrimp has benefited the entire domestic distribution chain ranging from processors, to shippers, to retailers, to restaurants. There are tens of thousands of American jobs affiliated with these activities. These economic benefits are threatened if shrimp prices are artificially raised.

We are concerned that trade barriers advocated by the anti-dumping petitions will do nothing to reduce production costs of domestic fisherman, meet consumer demand for shrimp or help U.S. shrimp fishermen become more competitive with farmed product. We're also troubled that our affected trading partners might retaliate against a broad selection of U.S. goods – setting up a trade war that will be expensive, non-decisive and anti-consumer.

Bottom line, no evidence exists that the dumping of shrimp or any other unfair trade is occurring. These petitions are putting much at risk. We urge you to oppose them.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Anne Northup
Member of Congress



Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress

AMN/ccb