



**Louisiana Shrimp Association
109 East 17th Place
Larose, La. 70373**

April 22, 2026

Dear Honorable Members of Congress,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing commercial fishermen, seafood producers, and coastal communities, along with the independent fishermen and seafood businesses listed in support across the United States, we respectfully request immediate federal action to provide fuel subsidies or targeted fuel relief for our industry.

Together, our organizations represent thousands of American fishermen and seafood businesses who depend on access to affordable fuel to remain operational.

Commercial fishing vessels are entirely dependent on fuel to operate. Without it, boats cannot leave the dock, and American seafood cannot reach the market. Today, rising fuel costs are placing an unsustainable burden on fishermen—especially small, family-owned operations that are the backbone of our coastal economies and the communities our organizations represent.

At the same time, U.S. fishermen are competing against imported seafood from countries where fuel and operational costs are often subsidized. This creates a significant and unfair disadvantage for American harvesters and threatens the long-term viability of our domestic seafood supply.

In addition to fuel costs, fishermen are also facing rising expenses on essential gear and supplies, including tariff-impacted goods such as shackles, netting, and metal rope. Despite these increased input costs, domestic shrimp prices have not risen accordingly, leaving fishermen squeezed on both ends and operating at a loss.

We want to emphasize that the federal government already has proven mechanisms in place to deliver meaningful financial relief to fishermen. For example, under the CARES Act, fisheries assistance programs successfully provided direct payments to fishermen through NOAA Fisheries based on economic losses. Similarly, longstanding fishery disaster assistance programs have delivered aid to fishing communities impacted by economic hardship, natural disasters, and market disruptions.

These existing frameworks demonstrate that Congress does not need to create an entirely new system—only to adapt and utilize the tools already available. Fuel costs can and should be recognized as a qualifying economic hardship.

Additionally, it is important to recognize that the federal government already provides fuel-related support to several key American industries. In agriculture, farmers benefit from fuel tax exemptions and refunds for off-road diesel use. In aviation, federal tax structures and infrastructure investments help offset fuel-related costs and support the stability of air transportation. The energy sector receives longstanding tax provisions that reduce production costs, while transportation industries benefit from federally funded infrastructure and fuel-related policies.

These examples demonstrate that federal policy has long acknowledged the importance of managing fuel costs in essential industries. Commercial fishing is no different. Like agriculture, it is a food-producing sector that relies entirely on fuel to operate and sustain domestic supply chains.

At the same time, foreign shrimp producers continue to receive government-backed subsidies, tax incentives, and financial support that lower their operating costs—placing American fishermen at a clear competitive disadvantage.

We respectfully urge federal leadership, including Members of Congress, to introduce and support legislation establishing a federal fuel subsidy or relief program for U.S. commercial fishermen, and to consider the following actions:

We encourage bipartisan action on this issue, as the challenges facing American fishermen transcend party lines and impact coastal communities and domestic food security nationwide.

- Establish a federal fuel subsidy or per-gallon rebate program for commercial fishing vessels
- Provide emergency fuel assistance during periods of extreme price volatility using existing NOAA Fisheries distribution systems
- Expand fishery disaster assistance criteria to include severe economic impacts caused by fuel costs
- Implement tax relief measures or refundable credits tied directly to fuel usage for commercial harvesters

These solutions are practical, achievable, and could be implemented quickly using existing administrative pathways.

The commercial fishing industry is vital to our nation's food security, economy, and cultural heritage. In states like Louisiana and across the Gulf and coastal regions, generations of Americans have depended on these waters for their livelihoods. Without meaningful relief, many fishermen will be forced out of the industry, increasing our nation's reliance on foreign imports and weakening our domestic food supply.

We stand ready to work with your offices to develop and implement effective solutions that will keep American fishermen on the water and ensure the continued availability of safe, domestic, wild-caught seafood.

Thank you for your leadership and your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Acy Cooper

President

Louisiana Shrimp Association

For follow-up or questions, please contact:

Marla Cooper

Secretary

Louisiana Shrimp Association

Email: mcooper@louisianashrimp.org
Phone: 504-418-3150

We are happy to coordinate introductions with supporting organizations and fishermen upon request.

On behalf of the following organizations:

US Shrimpers Coalition:
Texas Shrimp Association
Seafood Work and Watermen's Association
South Carolina Shrimpers Association
North Carolina Fisheries Association
Alabama Commercial Fishermen Association
Seafood Work and Watermen's Association
Louisiana Shrimp Association

A list of independent fishermen and seafood businesses supporting this request across the United States is attached.

Ditcharo's La Wild Caught Seafood, Louisiana	Councilman Kenny Glavin, Miss
Anderson Louisiana Seafood, Louisiana	Ted Adams, Barataria Louisiana
P P Trawlers Inc-m/v Dina Lupe, Texas	Richard McKnight, Vero Beach, Fl.
Cuevas & Martinez Inc-m/v Letisha Trinae, Tx	Karen Mayer, Vero Beach, Fl
Miss Fina Inc-m/v Miss Fina, Texas	Adrian Etie Texas.
Miss Adaelisa Inc- m/v Miss Adaelisa, Texas	Mark Bourque, Louisiana
Capt Carolos Inc-m/v Capt C, Texas	Elizabeth Grace Bourque, Louisiana
Marin Trawlers Inc-m/v Desire, Texas	Gracie Bourque, Louisiana
Purata Trawlers Inc-m/v Alma Marie, Texas	Olivia Bourque, Louisiana
ZARAGOZA Inc- m/v Captain Aiden, Texas	Olivia Bourque, Louisiana
Mary Kalei Shrimp Co, Texas	Maria Elna Inc- Texas
Lydia Shrimp Co, Texas	
Good Blessings-m/v Good News, Texas	Delta Commercial Fisheries Association
Blessed Shepherd Inc- m/v Good News III, Tx	Tobu Services LLC, Louisiana
Holy Spirit Trawlers Inc-m/v Good News V, Tx	Mucho Logo Inc-m/v Mom & Dad, Texas
Grinding Seafood-m/v Heaven's Gate, Texas	COS MOP, Inc, Texas
Sacred Fleet Inc-m/v Blind Faith II, Texas	Bodden Caddel Inc-Texas
Centurion Seafood, Inc-m/v Centurion, Texas	Start Young Inc-m/v Princess Anna, Texas
Chato Trawlers Inc- m/v Master D J, Texas	BBC Trawlers Inc-m/v Capt Conrad, Texas
Lady Lisa Inc-m/v Lady Lisa, Texas	J J Rentals, Inc-m/v Los Gueros, Texas
Two Girls Inc-m/v Edrick & Joanna, Texas	Boudreaux Shrimp Co, Texas
Ochoa & Son Trawlers Inc-	Twin City Shrimp Co, Texas
m/v Shack of Faith, Texas	Mighty B Shrimp Co, Texas
Humble Servant Inc- m/v Promised Land II, Tx	Path of Faith Inc-m/v Footprint, Texas
Divine Savior Inc- m/v Promised Land IV	Justamminute Inc- m/v Good News II, Texas
Two S's & Three L's Inc-m/v Delanie Nicole, Tx	Renaissance Trawlers Inc-m/v Good News IV, Texas
Jessie Delgado, Laguna, Texas	Hope Trawlers Inc-m/v Hope, Texas
DDG LLC, Louisiana	Divine Protection Inc-m/v Blind Faith
Kyle Nevarez, Texas	Cuevas Pride Inc, Texas

G & A Trawlers Inc-m/v Country Boy, Texas
E J Joey Inc- m/v EJ & Joey, Texas
Chico Boy Inc-m/v Tortuga Viego, Texas
Sons Revelation Inc-m/v Sandy Sea, Texas
Ochoa & Son Inc- m/v Plains Drifter, Texas
Sinai Trawlers Inc- m/v Promised Land
Bandolero Inc- m/v Mr. Mac, Texas
Lady Marge Inc-m/v Lady Marge, Texas
Kyle Nevarez, Tx.
Councilman Kenny, Ms.
Ted Adams, Barataria La.
Richard McKnight, Fl.
Karen Mayer, Fl.
Adrian Etie, Tx.
Mark Bourque, La.
Elizabeth Grace Bourque, La.
Gracie Bourque, La.
Olivia Bourque, La.
Olivia Bourque, La.
A.L. Bourque, La.
Lynn Bergeron Bourque, La.
Shawn Polkey, La.
Amber Theriot, La.
Brett Theriot, La.
Shelley Demere, La.
Nicholas Demere, La
Westbank Fishing LLC, La.
Sassy B Seafood Co., La.
Jeffery Fazende, La.
K and E LLC, La.
Tracy Barrois, La.
Ron Orgeron, La.
Rana Michelle Seafood LLC, La.
Ernest Ruttley Jr, La.
Eva Ruttley, La.
Dorothy Ruttley, La.
Brandon Ruttley, La.
Christopher Ruttley, La.
Tristen Ruttley, La.
Irvin and April Dehart, La.
James Hammond. Fl.
Ronnie Williams, La.
Kimbo Serigne, La.
Lee Peltier, La.
Toni Peltier, La,
Eldon (Ju-June) Foret, La.
Guy Lirette, La.
Roxanne Lirette, La.
Marty Collins, Ga.
James Schrader, Fl.
Chapa shrimp Trawlers Inc, Tx

Brent Rodriguez, La.
Andrea Rodriguez, La.
Two Sons Shrimp Co. LLC, La.
Mark DeGeorge, Ms.
Richard McKnight, Fl.
Karen Mayer, Fl.
Robin Palmisano, La.
Jonathan Palmisano, La.
Jason Palmisano, La.
Jareth Palmisano, La.
Kim Serigne Jr., La.
Irvin Dehart, La.
April Dehart, La.
Al Fabre, Jr., La.
Kathy Fabre, La.
Brandon Fabre, La.
Darby Fabre, La.
Johnny Harris, Ms.
Karon Harris, Ms.
Lenny Nunez, La.
Brian Eymard, La.
Chris DeJean, Jr., La.
Opal DeJean, La.
Paul E Verdin, La.
Barbara Hewlett, Fl.
BK Fisheries, Fl.
Florida Lobster & Stone Crab, Fl.
Otis Cantrelle, Jr. La.
Misty Stevens, Tx.
Alex Bunjaku, Tx.
Chris Guidroz, Tx.
Wayne Savoie, Fl.
Tess Savoie, Fl.
Robert Keenan, La.
Brian Eymard, La.
Drury Legacy, LLC, La.
Drury Boys, La.
Robert Keenan Seafood, La.
Peruga Inc, La.
Francisco Torres, Tx.
Juan Vela, Tx
Billy Joe Bob, La.
Robert Keenan
Stephen Laumann, La.
Vernon Duhe, La.
Native Sons Seafood, La.
Craig Guthrie, NC
Alvin Creppel, La.
David Dolci, La.
Alex Bunjaku, Tx.
Nicholas Russell, La.

Carolyn Russell, La.
Ross Robin, La.
Brandon Seal, Ms.
Charles Robin, La.
Merlin Price, La.
Shawn Price, La.
Eric Hebert, La.
Lloyd Billiot, La.
Lanie Sonnier, La.
Jarrod Ransonet, La.
Arianne Liner, La.
Bart Thibodeaux, La.
Sky Lege, La.
Rebecca Thibodeaux, La.
Michael Shaw, La.
Brian Eymard, La.
Tipper Sponge, La.
Garrett Frederick, La.
Jared Hebert, La.
Kermit Duck, La.
Stephanie Duck, La.
Aiden Duck, La.
Evan Duck, La.
David Duck, La.
Brittney Pellegrin, La.
Troy LeCompte, La.
Robin LeCompte, La.
Ricky Robin, La.
Susan Robin, La.
Joseph Dean, La.
Eric Dufrene, La.
Double K Fisheries, La.
Evan Thibodeaux, La.
Clint Renard, La.
Lance Pellegrin, La.
Brent Duplantis, La.
Mark Carrere, La.
Magdaleno Zarco, La.
Valentin Zarco, Tx
Fausto Gomez Jr, Tx.
Ismael Garcia, Tx.
Jose L Perez, Tx.
Bernardino H Perez, Tx.
Hector Garcia, Tx.
Juan Carlos del Angel, Tx
Jesse Galvan, Tx.
Martin Morales, Tx.
Ida Gonzales Rivera, Tx.
Ramon Estrada, Tx
Jose G Garcia, Tx.
Omar Martinez, Tx.

Javier Ramiro, Tx.
Roberto Garcia, Tx.
Kerry Jeffries, Tx.
Bernardo Bueno, Tx.
Juan Vela, Tx,
Samuel Morales, Tx.
Kevin Dupre, La
Darin Palmisano, La.
Terry Luke Jr., La.
Paul E Verdin, La.
Jon Kliebert, La.
Dean H Jackson, La.
Stacey Jackson, La.
Cameron Jackson, La.
Christopher Jackson, La.
Brian Thibodeaux, La.
Jennifer Thibodeaux, La.
Ronnie Kreger, La.
Shaun Thonn, La.
Parish Williams, La.
Gage Thibodeaux, La.
Rustin Kreger, La.
Warren Lirette, La.
Chad C Trosclair, La.
Kirk Whitfield, La.
William Bennett, Ga.
Ronnie "Chevo" Anderson, La.
Rene' Anderson, La.
Capt. Ward Kinchen, USCG, La.
Paul Ruiz, La.
Jennifer Ruiz, La.
Ricky Nelson, La.
Ernie Anderson, Al.
Organized Seafood Association of Al.
Michael Adams
Bill Beasley, La.
David Bryan, Al.
Jake Bienvenu, La.
Kenny Glavin, Ms.
Jakov Jurisic, La.
JJ's Oysters LLC, La.
Greogory Haydel, La.
Clinton Morales, La.
Stephanie Hunt, Fl.
Chappa Shrimp Trawlers, Tx
Joseph Dean, La.
Aguilar Shrimp Trawlers Inc, Tx.
M/V Ms. Eva, Tx.
M/V Ricardo / Roel, Tx.
M/V Lady Michell, Tx.
M/V Joe, Tx.

M/V Fivebro's, Tx.
M/V Bella Ariel, Tx.
M/V Capt Benji, Tx.
M/V Amigo, Tx.
M/V Bea, Tx.
M/V Don Panchito, Tx.
M/V Si Se Puede, Yx.
Marcos Hernandez, Tx.
Arturo Chapa, Tx.
Benjamin Lopez, Tx.
Francisco Abrego, Tx.
Jose Guillen, Tx.
Eugenio Fuentes, Tx.
Maria Elna Inc- Texas