

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 6, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

Thank you for your continued support for our farmers as they deal with losses as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We write again to voice our strong support for the inclusion of crawfish aquaculture under the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). The crawfish industry relies heavily on direct-to-consumer markets, such as restaurants and large social gatherings, that were devastated by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In response to USDA's request (Docket ID: FSA-2020-0004-0003), the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation's Crawfish Working Group and the LSU AgCenter have documented ample evidence of severe losses to the crawfish industry due to COVID-19. They estimate that from January to April 2020, crawfish in Louisiana suffered a price loss of \$0.81 per pound, or roughly 33 percent, that can be directly attributed to COVID-19. This is well above the 5 percent price loss threshold required by CFAP. They also estimate that over 14 million pounds of crawfish were unable to be harvested due to lack of markets. When compared with the over 73 million pounds harvested over the same time period, this represents a roughly 16 percent reduction in potential harvest. Given the seasonal nature of crawfish production and consumption, there is no opportunity to make up these losses later in the year.

For generations, crawfish have brought Louisianans together to celebrate the change in seasons, our faith, our families, and our heritage. While the social impact of the loss of these celebrations on the people of Louisiana can never be quantified, the economic loss to the State is estimated at over \$146 million for 2020. Assistance from CFAP would ensure that this vital industry can rebound in 2021.

We urge you to include crawfish aquaculture for assistance under CFAP, and we thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,




Bill Cassidy, M.D.
U.S. Senator



John Kennedy
U.S. Senator



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
U.S. Representative



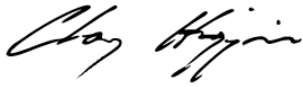
Steve Scalise
U.S. Representative



Cedric Richmond
U.S. Representative



Garret Graves
U.S. Representative



Clay Higgins
U.S. Representative



Mike Johnson
U.S. Representative