

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2405

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RULES AND  
ADMINISTRATION

December 14, 2023

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I respectfully request that you give strong consideration to the U.S. wild-caught shrimp industry's request for the purchase of surplus domestic shrimp products through the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Section 32 Program.

As the industry noted in its request, domestic inventory levels are at an all-time high due to the massive level of shrimp imports. A Section 32 purchase would provide desperately needed relief to the industry and encourage the consumption of wholesome, unadulterated, wild-caught domestic shrimp.

Timing of the requested purchase is important. The industry made the request in July. The processing sector would like to release some inventory in the first quarter of 2024 to free up inventory space and allow it to purchase more shrimp at a better price from downstream fishermen. Prior solicitations issued in late November worked particularly well for the industry, and I hope you will consider issuing a new solicitation as soon as possible in December.

The domestic shrimp industry is part of the lifeblood of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and this purchase is critical to ensure the preservation of this iconic industry. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me or members of my staff should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



CINDY HYDE-SMITH  
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Bruce Summers, Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service