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Office of the Lieutenant Governor
State of Louisiana

BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



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September 8, 2021

OS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
2021 SEP 29 PM 1:14

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

Louisiana's seafood industry has just been dealt its toughest hand yet. Hurricane Ida was a severely powerful and damaging storm to our seafood docks, vessels and communities. The devastation of this storm has the potential to decimate the infrastructure of our seafood industry for good, if we cannot get the assistance we need. I humbly implore you to declare a "Fishery Disaster Determination" provided by the provisions within the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act.

The fisheries of Louisiana are a vital part of our state's economy. Our seafood industry employs over 50,000 individuals and has an impact of \$2.4 billion annually. Nearly one third of the seafood consumed in the contiguous United States is harvested fresh from our waters. Currently at this very moment we have docks that are still underwater, 30% of our shrimp boat fleet is gone, and freezer plants and fuel docks out of power, out of fuel or blown away. Our waterways are in disarray and unnavigable in areas where catches were once bountiful.

This disaster has affected our waters, our fisherman's livelihood, and the products our local restaurants are serving to customers. Our industry has endured many storms, pandemics and the BP oil spill, but nothing that has wiped out the infrastructure of our fishing communities such as this. We will survive this, but need the proper assistance and adequate funding to keep our fisherman on the water, repair boats and get docks back to working order.

Through my office and the Louisiana Seafood Promotions and Marketing Board, we have had our finger on the pulse of our fishing communities' needs and the dire situation at hand. It is our goal that the Louisiana seafood industry recovers from this disaster and that those dependent upon the industry return to work once again.

Thank you in advance for your support of this important and essential request. If you have any questions or need information, please call me at (504) 657-9890, or contact Samantha Carroll, Executive Director of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board.

Sincerely,



Billy Nungesser
Lieutenant Governor



Samantha Carroll
Executive Director
Louisiana Seafood Promotions and Marketing Board

cc: Governor John Bel Edwards
Louisiana Congressional Delegation
Jack Montoucet
Rick Spinrad
David Donaldson