

1 SJR81
2 160121-1
3 By Senator Blackwell
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 13-MAR-14

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8 URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE MARKETING OF ALABAMA
9 SEAFOOD PRODUCTS.

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11 WHEREAS, Alabama seafood products face constantly
12 increasing domestic competition from imported seafood
13 products, with more than 80 percent of the total seafood
14 consumed in the United States currently originating in foreign
15 countries; and

16 WHEREAS, effective domestic marketing of Alabama
17 seafood in the face of aggressive competition from foreign
18 products requires innovative, forceful, and consistent
19 promotion; and

20 WHEREAS, current annual funding is insufficient to
21 effectively develop the thriving markets that sustainable
22 Alabama seafood products merit, especially when competing with
23 nationally supported promotional programs aimed at United
24 States consumers by rival seafood-producing countries; and

25 WHEREAS, duties and tariffs on imported seafood
26 products generate approximately \$280,000,000 annually for the
27 United States Treasury; and

1 WHEREAS, revenue from anti-dumping and
2 countervailing duties on imported seafood products collected
3 by the federal government total hundreds of millions of
4 dollars annually, and

5 WHEREAS, federal revenue derived from the
6 importation of competing seafood products is not presently
7 made available for the marketing of seafood harvested and
8 produced domestically; and

9 WHEREAS, using a portion of the revenue collected on
10 the importation of foreign seafood products to promote United
11 States seafood to domestic consumers will secure United States
12 fisheries and seafood processing jobs, create robust and
13 enduring domestic markets, and greatly enhance the nutritional
14 value of national diets; and

15 WHEREAS, throughout recent history each spill or
16 leak associated with the transportation or production of oil
17 negatively affects the seafood industry through the closure of
18 commercial and recreational fishing operations, the
19 destruction of wildlife and natural habitat, or loss of market
20 share; and

21 WHEREAS, in a recent survey conducted by the
22 University of Minnesota, 54 percent of respondents said the
23 Deepwater Horizon oil spill has affected their seafood
24 consumption habits somewhat, 44 percent said they will not eat
25 seafood from the Gulf of Mexico, and 31 percent said they will
26 eat less seafood regardless of its origin; and

1 WHEREAS, a new National Seafood Marketing Fund
2 designed to promote and develop United States produced seafood
3 would help the United States seafood industry now and in the
4 future recoup damages related to oil spills that result in
5 decreased market demand for seafood; and

6 WHEREAS, a small portion of oil revenues are a
7 logical source of funding for a National Seafood Marketing
8 Fund as mitigation for real damages incurred by the seafood
9 industry and coastal communities; now therefore,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
11 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we urge the United States
12 Congress to allocate moneys generated from federal marine and
13 fishery product import tariffs for the domestic marketing of
14 Alabama seafood.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we urge Congress to
16 pass legislation dedicating a significant portion of marine
17 and fishery product import tariffs to a National Seafood
18 Marketing Fund to promote domestic seafood products that face
19 competition from foreign imports.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we urge the Alabama
21 Congressional Delegation to work with representatives of other
22 seafood-producing states to secure adequate funding for
23 effective and sustained domestic marketing of United States
24 seafood.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
26 resolution be made available to the President of the United
27 States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the

1 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to
2 each member of the Alabama Congressional Delegation.