

By Senator Hays

20-01287-11

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
urging Congress to support the marketing of Florida
seafood.

WHEREAS, Florida seafood products face constantly
increasing domestic competition from imported seafood products,
with more than 80 percent of the total seafood consumed in the
United States currently originating in foreign countries, and

WHEREAS, effective domestic marketing of Florida seafood in
the face of aggressive competition from foreign products
requires innovative, forceful, and consistent promotion, and

WHEREAS, current annual funding for the domestic promotion
of Florida seafood is insufficient to effectively develop the
thriving markets that sustainable Florida seafood products
merit, especially when competing with nationally supported
promotional programs aimed at United States consumers by rival
seafood-producing countries, and

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

WHEREAS, revenue from anti-dumping and countervailing
duties on imported seafood products collected by the Federal
Government total hundreds of millions of dollars annually, and

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

WHEREAS, using a portion of the revenue collected on the

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30 importation of foreign seafood products to promote United States
31 seafood to domestic consumers will secure United States
32 fisheries and seafood processing jobs, create robust and
33 enduring domestic markets, and greatly enhance the nutritional
34 value of national diets, and

35 WHEREAS, throughout recent history each spill or leak
36 associated with the transportation or production of oil
37 negatively affects the seafood industry through the closure of
38 commercial and recreational fishing operations, the destruction
39 of wildlife and natural habitat, or loss of market share, and

40 WHEREAS, in a recent survey conducted by the University of
41 Minnesota, 54 percent of respondents said the Deepwater Horizon
42 oil spill has affected their seafood consumption habits
43 somewhat, 44 percent said they will not eat seafood from the
44 Gulf of Mexico, and 31 percent said they will eat less seafood
45 regardless of its origin, and

46 WHEREAS, a new National Seafood Marketing Fund designed to
47 promote and develop United States produced seafood would help
48 the United States seafood industry now and in the future recoup
49 damages related to oil spills that result in decreased market
50 demand for seafood, and

51 WHEREAS, a small portion of oil revenues are a logical
52 source of funding for a National Seafood Marketing Fund as
53 mitigation for real damages incurred by the seafood industry and
54 coastal communities, NOW, THEREFORE,

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56 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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58 That the Congress of the United States is requested to

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59 allocate moneys generated from federal marine and fishery
60 product import tariffs for the domestic marketing of Florida
61 seafood.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United
63 States is urged to pass legislation dedicating a significant
64 portion of marine and fishery product import tariffs to a
65 national seafood marketing fund to promote domestic seafood
66 products that face competition from foreign imports.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Congressional
68 Delegation is urged to work with representatives of other
69 seafood-producing states to secure adequate funding for
70 effective and sustained domestic marketing of United States
71 seafood.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
73 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
74 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
75 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
76 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.