

Statement of Senator Thad Cochran on Frozen Warmwater Shrimp from China, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam

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ITC Investigation Nos: 701-TA-491-497

Chairman Williamson, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for this important hearing. I am pleased the International Trade Commission is taking the necessary steps to ensure that the shrimping industry on the Gulf Coast is protected from unfairly subsidized shrimp imports. I hope that this investigation will lead to action which will allow the domestic shrimp industry to compete on a level playing field.

The Gulf shrimp industry is important to Mississippi's economy, contributing to thousands of jobs and over a hundred million in annual economic output. Unfortunately the recent surge in imports due to foreign subsidy programs has been a detriment to these jobs and the industry as a whole. While I support maintaining strong international trade relations, it is important that our trading partners play by the rules.

American businesses rely on the International Trade Commission to enforce our trade laws and to help ensure our domestic workers can compete fairly in the international marketplace. I was pleased with the Commission's preliminary affirmative countervailing duty determinations on frozen warmwater shrimp imports, and I am hopeful it will take final measures to ensure government subsidies from China, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam no longer pose an economic threat to the U.S. shrimp industry.

Again, I thank the Commission for the opportunity to submit testimony for this important issue.