

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Kennedy
437 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

July 22, 2025

Dear Senator Cassidy and Senator Kennedy:

We, the undersigned **sixty-five** Louisiana fishermen, shrimpers, farmers, businesses, organizations, and chefs are writing to urge you to **co-sponsor the bipartisan piece of legislation S. 1529 “Keep Finfish Free Act of 2025.”** This bill was introduced on April 30th by Senator Booker and Senator Sullivan, and would protect our coastal economies from the threat of industrial-scale finfish farms.

Industrial-scale offshore finfish farming involves raising massive, concentrated quantities of fish in cages, and has been a misguided priority for NOAA Fisheries for years. These finfish net pens harm traditional wild harvest fisheries. They cause [large-scale localized pollution](#), [ongoing fish escapes](#), and [discharge parasites](#) and legacy chemicals into the ocean. These chemical-laden, ocean-farmed fish are then served to American families to eat instead of healthy, wild-caught Louisianan seafood.

Louisianans have intergenerational knowledge and deep cultural connections to our cherished waterways and the seafood that has sustained us for centuries. We know how to provide healthy seafood for our communities, and we oppose out of state and foreign corporate interests making deals with Federal agencies to place overcrowded fish farms in Federal waters just off our coast - especially when we have *already* [overwhelmingly rejected such efforts](#).

American fishermen *already* land more than enough edible seafood (8.4 billion lbs landed; 6.4 billion lbs eaten annually) to feed our country. And, Louisiana is a key part of our nation's food security, being the top seafood producing state in the continental U.S., generating over \$2.4 billion annually in economic benefits to the state. Let's not throw that track record away.

It boggles the mind that NOAA Fisheries – the agency tasked with conserving and managing our wild fisheries – would seek to artificially prop up a rival industry that would actively harm our state's fisheries. In fact, in recent years it has wasted [over \\$40 million](#) in taxpayer dollars doing so. **This bill would halt this reckless spending in its tracks, cost taxpayers nothing to enact, and rightfully push back against agency behavior** that has sought to “legislate” its own will in the absence of any Congressional authority or oversight.

For the above reasons, we urge you to co-sponsor S. 1529, the Keep Finfish Free Act of 2025.

Sincerely,

Acadiana Growers Alliance, Inc.

Jennie Lallande
New Iberia, LA

Anna Marie Seafood LLC

Cpt. Lance Nacio
Montegut, LA

Arnesen Seafoods

Cpt. Kindra Arnesen
Buras (Plaquemines Parish), LA

Barisich Inc., F/V F.J.G.

Cpt. George C. Barisich
Arabi, LA

Budsies

Jim Costigan
New Orleans, LA

Coastal Communities Consulting

Katrina Williams
New Orleans, LA

Commercial Fisherman

Hanh Le
Harvey, LA

Commercial Fisherman

Irvin Mallett
Cameron, LA

Commercial Fisherman

Stephney Mallett
Cameron Parish, LA

Commercial Fisherman

Dinh Nguyen
Harvey, LA

Commercial Fisherman

Luc Nguyen
Harvey, LA

Commercial Fisherman

Thanh Nguyen
Buras, LA

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Justin Solet
Lower Terrebonne Parish, LA

Commercial Fisherman

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Belle Chase, LA

Common Ground Relief

Christina Lehw
New Orleans, LA

Cultivating Culture

Tyeena Carter
Slidell, LA

The Dancing Radicle Farm

Iriel Edwards
Boyce, LA

Ditcharo's LA Wild Caught Shrimp

Dominick Ditcharo
Buras, LA

F/V Amber Rose

Viet Do
New Orleans, LA

F/V Capt. Andre

Kelvin Nguyen
New Orleans, LA

F/V Capt. Luu

Luu Nguyen
Houma, LA

F/V Capt. M&T
Thien Nguyen
New Orleans, LA

F/V Capt. Sang
Nuung Nguyen
Gretna, LA

F/V Dustin
Mong Vo
Gretna, LA

F/V G.G.
Brian Winkler
Metairie, LA

F/V Kim Thanh II
Cuc Huynh
Slidell, LA

F/V Kimmy
Truc Nguyen
Chalmette, LA

F/V Long Beach
Dany Vo
Harvey, LA

F/V Lucky Day
Loi Le
New Orleans, LA

F/V Lucky 9
Hung Tran
Chalmette, LA

F/V Madame Myong
Canh Nguyen
New Orleans, LA

F/V Master Dylan
Phuoc H. Nguyen
Venice, LA

F/V Miss Alexa
Jerry D. Parria
Lafitte, LA

F/V Miss Becky Ann
Steven Vath
Metairie, LA

F/V Miss Norma Jay
Solomon Williams, Jr.
Lake Charles, LA

F/V Miss Tammy
Dung Lam
Gretna, LA

F/V Morning Star
Tom Huynh
New Orleans, LA

F/V Night Star II
Hanh Phan
Houma, LA

F/V Phi Thung
Phi Vo
Gretna, LA

F/V Peaceful Lady
Tung Nguyen
Chalmette, LA

F/V Poppa Ray
Raymond Vath
Metairie, LA

F/V Sea Queen, III
Ly Huynh
Houma, LA

F/V Superman
David Do
Gretna, LA

F/V Thanh Nhien
Thanh Phan
Harvey, LA

**F/V Waymaker & LA Board Member for
Southern Shrimp Alliance**
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Houma, LA

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Louisiana Food Policy Action Council

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Mossville Environmental Action Now

Debra Sullivan Ramirez
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New Orleans Food Policy Action Council

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Peruga, Inc. (F/V Pomalo)

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Recirculating Farms

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Ripp's Inland Charters

Ripp Blank
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Ruttley Boys, Inc.

Ernest Ruttley
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Shrimp Aid

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Sprout

Devin Wright
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Southern Food Foundation

Emma Reid
New Orleans, LA

Taylor Orchard and Vegetable Farm

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Theriot's Seafood

Anthony Theriot
Cameron, LA

Trinh LLC

Charlie Trinh
Gretna, LA

We the People Bayou Community

Vicki Cloutier
Houma, LA

CC:

Rep. Steve Scalise, First District of Louisiana; **Rep. Troy Carter**, Second District of Louisiana; **Rep. Clay Higgins**, Third District of Louisiana; **Speaker Mike Johnson**, Fourth District of Louisiana; **Rep. Julia Letlow**, Fifth District of Louisiana; **Rep. Cleo Fields**, Sixth District of Louisiana