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October 28, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

On October 19, 2026, you and President Donald J. Trump announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will make \$8 billion available for one-time payments to American farmers this harvest season under the Harvest Fuel Relief program. This initiative is designed to provide critical support amid temporary market disruptions and rising input costs. As you consider payment methodologies for producers of non-Title I commodities, including fishermen, I urge you to ensure that shrimpers along the Texas Gulf Coast are eligible for this much needed relief.

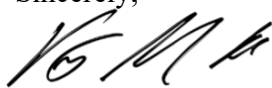
As you know, shrimpers in my congressional district and throughout the Gulf region are facing an existential crisis driven by cheaper foreign imports, severe labor shortages, and high fuel prices. The war with Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz are only making things worse. With diesel prices nearly doubling since February, many of our shrimpers are barely operating at a profit. To stay afloat, they must now harvest nearly three times their typical amount to cover fuel costs, which have skyrocketed to almost \$80,000 per boat.

Increased fuel prices are adding more financial pressure to an industry that is already struggling. According to the March 2026 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Technical Memorandum, Gulf shrimp revenue dropped by 50 percent from \$489 million in 2021 to \$221 million in 2023. The last profitable year for the Gulf shrimp fleet was in 2021.

Without federal assistance, many small family-owned businesses and coastal communities across the Gulf Coast risk irreparable harm. The Administration must not overlook the shrimping industry and should ensure that these producers are eligible for support under this fund. Including shrimpers in the Harvest Fuel Relief program will offset their highest production cost – fuel – and enable them to unmoor their boats and return to sea.

Shrimpers are vital contributors to America's food supply; they are the farmers of the sea and deserve to be a part of the conversation. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress