



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana

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The Honorable Tom Vilsack
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

Louisiana leads our Nation in crawfish production, supplying 100 to 120 million pounds per year and contributing over \$425 million in total to the state economy.

The impact of crawfish goes far beyond the table – providing jobs, industry, and innovation. Our farmers and fishermen have been vital to Louisiana’s economic success and have contributed tirelessly to the State’s culture for many generations.

As you may be aware, Louisiana was recently hit with an unprecedented drought, ultimately decimating this year’s crawfish production. This production shortage will undoubtedly have negative impacts for the commercial crawfish industry, local farmers, and everyday consumers.

Traditionally, when a drought has affected a harvest, the federal government has stepped in to lend a hand. However, due to unintended consequences of legislation, crawfish are excluded from this critical aid. Therefore, I am respectfully requesting we expand the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program to include drought as a cause of loss for farm-raised fish (including crawfish).

It is critical that we provide much-needed relief to this industry and ensure economic vitality for generations and harvests to come.

For Louisiana,

Governor Jeff Landry

