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HM 9

2011 Legislature

House 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

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28 WHEREAS, using a portion of the revenue collected on the
29 importation of foreign seafood products to promote United States
30 seafood to domestic consumers will secure United States
31 fisheries and seafood processing jobs, create robust and
32 enduring domestic markets, and greatly enhance the nutritional
33 value of national diets, and

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

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

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

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

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

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57 That the Congress of the United States is requested to
58 allocate moneys generated from federal marine and fishery
59 product import tariffs for the domestic marketing of Florida
60 seafood.

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

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

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