

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1803**

April 3, 2023

Robert Califf M.D.  
Commissioner  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Commissioner Califf,

I request increased inspection of shrimp imports following recent reports of the detection of the white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) in frozen shrimp products originating from India.<sup>1</sup> As the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for inspecting imported seafood and ensuring consumer safety, it is crucial to address this issue promptly.

On March 31, 2023, Saudi Arabia imposed a temporary ban on shrimp imported from India due to the detection of WSSV. The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) has stated that the ban will remain in place until India provides sufficient guarantees to ensure the safety of exported products and prevent the transmission of WSSV to the fisheries in Saudi Arabia.

WSSV is a contagious and lethal virus affecting penaeid shrimp. If unaddressed, WSSV has the potential to severely impact the domestic shrimp industry. As a nation that imports a significant amount of seafood, the United States must take necessary precautions to prevent the spread of WSSV within our borders.

Again, I request the FDA and its federal partners to increase inspection of foreign imports and work together to mitigate the spread of WSSV in the United States. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with your agencies to ensure the safety and integrity of our nation's seafood supply.

Respectfully,



Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/food-safety-health/saudi-arabia-imposes-temporary-ban-on-indian-shrimp-after-white-spot-discovery>

CC:

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