

CLAY HIGGINS
3RD DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

MEMBER, HOUSE FREEDOM CAUCUS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND
THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE
NATIONAL SECURITY, THE
BORDER, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

February 28, 2024

Honorable Jeff Landry
Governor, State of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Governor Landry,

Sir, I write in support of a statewide disaster declaration for Louisiana's crawfish industry in response to the 2023 drought and its widespread, adverse impact on producers and related businesses.

As you know, the crawfish industry is significant to the economy and culture of our state. Our farmers, fishermen, and downstream businesses such as processors, restaurants, grocers, and boilers have all seen major financial losses this season. My office is working at the federal level to secure relief for crawfish farmers through USDA's Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP). In a January 30th letter to USDA Secretary Vilsack, I asked him to use existing authority to include drought as an eligible cause of loss for the crawfish industry under ELAP. Though approval of these changes would benefit our farmers, this agricultural program will not address the needs of related businesses.

In light of this, a statewide disaster declaration would help unlock relief programs for the non-agricultural members of the larger crawfish industry through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). This includes Economic Injury Disaster Loans, which offer a pathway to mobilize critical financial assistance for stakeholders who do not have direct access to USDA resources during this difficult time. Please know that my office stands ready to assist in any way at the federal level.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to continuing our work together for Louisiana's crawfish industry.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clay Higgins".

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress