

RELEASE IN PART
B6

Hey Boss... Catfish...

From: Burns Strider [redacted]

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To: Hillary Clinton HDR22@clintonemail.com

Subject: Hey Boss... Catfish...

Hey Boss... Let me engage you in a short email on a project I'm helping our AR, MS and LA farmers with... I'm certain you are well aware of the catfish industry since you and the President helped make it happen when yall were in AR...

They are really struggling in their competition with imported fish, in particular fish from Viet Nam. I have met with them and studied the facts and figures not just from that industry but from several consumer protection groups.

For the farmers, they are correct in that they may not be able to sustain their existence much longer. The cheaper imports are putting a deep hurt on them.

For the consumer protection groups, they are correct that cleanliness and safety of the imported fish is simply not known due to the testing of 2% or less.

These groups have a fix that they can showcase as being fair and being already setup within the federal govt. It just needs to procedurally take place.

I know you have serious and important priorities to take into consideration... I just wanted to make sure you were aware of what's going on with this particular issue as I know that are many ways to come to terms when multiple issues are in play.

Basically, there was an attempted fix in the Farm Bill by moving inspections from FDA to USDA... but this rule has never been carried out... nothing has been done... so consumer groups such as Food & Water Watch, S.T.O.P.—Safe Tables Our Priority and Consumer Federation of America along with ag groups have been making a push to get the admin to act on the rule... I've attached more than you will want... but the Congressional letters and the "Catfish Safety Campaign Advertisements" are definitely interesting... the language below is from a recent missive to supporters in DC....

"Dear xxxx, It was good to talk to you today about an important food safety issue involving imported catfish. As we discussed, imported catfish pose a significant food safety risk to US consumers. Congress tried to resolve this problem in the 2008 Farm Bill when it mandated that that catfish be regulated by USDA instead of by FDA (Congress moved the program to FSIS/USDA). Even though Congress ordered that a final rule on improved catfish inspection and regulation be out by the end of last year, today there still is not even a proposed rule published. The proposed rule is stalled in the interagency process over USTR concern that catfish exporting countries, particularly Vietnam, will react negatively to restrictions put on catfish exports. The purpose of the import restrictions is not to punish our trading partners, but to provide an incentive for them to increase their food safety standards. The US catfish industry will be subject to the same food safety standards, of course. The US should not be regulating the domestic product while not requiring the same standard for imports. Our goal should be a safe food supply for consumers and this depends on imports as well as domestically produced food being held to the same standard. We hope that you will review the attached materials. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any additional questions. Please let us know if your Member would be interested in signing a Congressional letter urging OMB Director Orzag to move the proposed rule forward?"

Thanks so much, as always, for reviewing those items I find of concern and of which I engaged... thank you!!