

2011 -- S 0850

LC02339

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE MARKETING OF RHODE  
ISLAND SEAFOOD

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, DeVall, Walaska, McCaffrey, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: April 14, 2011

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island seafood products face constantly increasing domestic  
2 competition from imported seafood products, with more than eighty percent of the total seafood  
3 consumed in the United States currently originating in foreign countries; and

4 WHEREAS, Effective domestic marketing of Rhode Island seafood requires a constant,  
5 consistent, and long-term marketing presence, especially in times of oversupply and new  
6 competition, in order for Rhode Island seafood to reach a greater market; and

7 WHEREAS, Current expenditures for the domestic promotion of Rhode Island seafood  
8 are not sufficient to effectively develop the thriving markets that sustainable Rhode Island  
9 seafood products merit, especially when confronted with nationally-supported promotional  
10 programs aimed at United States consumers by key rival producer countries; and

11 WHEREAS, There is not a federally-funded national seafood marketing fund available  
12 for the domestic marketing of American seafood; and

13 WHEREAS, Using seafood product import revenues to market American seafood will  
14 preserve American fishing and seafood processing jobs, will preserve United States processing  
15 capacity, and will ensure the availability of domestic seafood for the American consumer; and

16 WHEREAS, Throughout recent history, each spill or leak associated with the  
17 transportation or production of oil negatively affects the seafood industry through the closure of  
18 commercial and recreational fishing operations, the destruction of wildlife and natural habitat, or  
19 loss of market share; and

1           WHEREAS, A new National Seafood Marketing Fund designed to promote and develop  
2 United States produced seafood would help the United States seafood industry now and in the  
3 future recoup damages related to oil spills that contribute to decreased market demand for  
4 seafood; and

5           WHEREAS, A small portion of oil revenues is a logical source of funding for a National  
6 Seafood Marketing Fund as mitigation for real damages incurred by the seafood industry and  
7 coastal communities; now, therefore be it

8           RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States is requested to allocate moneys  
9 generated from federal marine and fishery product import tariffs for the domestic marketing of  
10 Rhode Island seafood; and be it further

11          RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States is urged to pass legislation  
12 dedicating a significant portion of marine and fishery product import tariffs to a National Seafood  
13 Marketing Fund to promote domestic seafood products that face competition from foreign  
14 imports; and be it further

15          RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
16 hereby respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation works with  
17 representatives of other seafood-producing states to secure adequate funding for effective and  
18 sustained domestic marketing of United States seafood; and be it further

19          RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he is hereby authorized and directed to  
20 transmit certified copies of this resolution to the President of the United States Senate, to the  
21 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to the Honorable Jack Reed and Sheldon  
22 Whitehouse, United States Senators, and to the Honorable James R. Langevin and David N.  
23 Cicilline, United States Representatives.

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