



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3605

March 12, 2021

The Honorable Bradley Karmen  
Acting Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs  
Farm Service Agency  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Acting Deputy Administrator Karmen:

As you are aware, the winter storm that recently struck the United States ravaged crops and cattle in several states. It also caused our nation's major redfish farms, located in Texas, to lose almost all their fish inventory. While we want to ensure that all producers are being helped, we are reaching out to ask that you consider making these redfish farms eligible for ELAP payments.

Texas redfish farms raise fish primarily for human consumption. In our opinion, these fish farms meet the definition of "farm-raised fish" in 7 CFR § 1416.102 because they are "propagated and reared in a controlled environment." Farmers raise fish in man-made ponds, provide them specific feed, and sell them on the market for human consumption after they reach a specific size.

These redfish farms in Texas produce over 95% of domestic farm-raised redfish. Early estimates predict that the total loss will reach 10 million pounds of fish valued at \$50 million. A loss of this magnitude will not only drastically reduce revenue for this season, but it will also leave these farmers with no revenue until they have marketable fish again. For context, it normally takes two years for these farmers to replenish their inventory and have marketable fish. Data is still being collected related to this loss, but it is expected to have a devastating effect on feed suppliers and wholesale buyers.

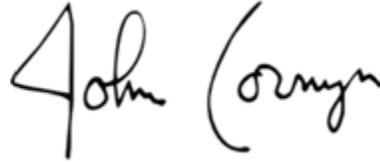
This catastrophic loss has jolted the domestic redfish supply chain. While ELAP's regulations specifically list bait and game fish as eligible, FSA's Deputy Administrator of Farm Programs has the discretion to make "other aquatic species" eligible. We ask that you use the authority prescribed to your role to make redfish eligible for ELAP.

We appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress



John Cornyn  
United States Senator



Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress



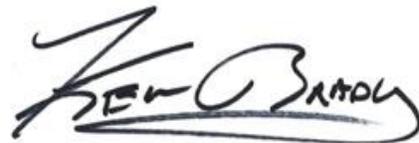
Ted Cruz  
United States Senator



Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



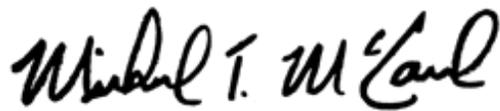
Beth Van Duyne  
Member of Congress



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