Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

On May 25, 2016, the Senate voted 55 to 43 in favor of S.J. Res. 28, a bipartisan joint resolution of disapproval under the procedures of the Congressional Review Act. This joint resolution would disapprove of the rule creating the U.S. Department of Agriculture catfish program and return inspection of catfish back to the Food and Drug Administration, which currently regulates all other species of seafood. The House should be afforded the opportunity for a floor vote on this important joint resolution before the August work period.

As a reminder, the USDA catfish program was added by the Senate to the 2008 Farm Bill conference report. It was in neither the House bill nor the Senate bill and was never subject to a hearing, debate or a vote before it appeared in the 2008 conference report. This language unnecessarily shifts catfish inspection from the FDA to the USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). Any facility that processes catfish and any other species of fish is subject to duplicative regulation: USDA for catfish and FDA for all other species. We believe the best use of taxpayers’ dollars is to have one regulator for seafood by returning the oversight of catfish to the FDA.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has 10 times stated that this program is "duplicative" and at "high risk" for fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. GAO concludes that the USDA catfish program “would result in duplication of federal programs and cost taxpayers millions of dollars annually without enhancing the safety of catfish intended for human consumption.” (GAO-13-283) This is not a food safety issue. USDA acknowledges that catfish, regardless of where it comes from, is considered a "low risk food." Similarly, the GAO found no food safety data supporting the transfer of inspection to the USDA. President Obama agrees and has proposed to eliminate the USDA catfish program in previous budgets.

As you know, the House Committee on Agriculture voted to repeal this program last Congress during consideration of the Farm Bill by a bipartisan vote of 31 yeas to 15 nays, and the full House adopted the repeal of the USDA catfish program under the open rule
consideration of the Farm Bill. It is imperative that regular order and common sense prevail, and we respectfully request that this joint resolution be brought to the floor for immediate consideration.

Sincerely,

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress

Peter J. Roskam  
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress

Robert J. Dold  
Member of Congress

Ann M. Kuster  
Member of Congress

Bruce Poliquin  
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress
Dan Benishek  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Gus Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Mike Bishop  
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

Marsha Blackburn  
Member of Congress

Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress

Rod Blum  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Dave Brat  
Member of Congress

Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress

Jim Bridenstine  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress

Chris Collins
Member of Congress

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

Ander Crenshaw
Member of Congress

Alan Grayson
Member of Congress

Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress
Ron DeSantis  
Member of Congress

Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

Renee L. Ellmers  
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

Blake Farenthold  
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress

J. Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress

Trent Franks  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress
Scott Garrett
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

Chris Gibson
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Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar
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Jim McDermott
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Sam Graves
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Seth Moulton
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H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress

Patrick Murphy
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Frank C. Guinta
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Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress
Andy Harris  
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Jame Herrera Beutler  
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Richard Hudson  
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Robert Hurt  
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David W. Jolly  
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Walter B. Jones  
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Jim Jordan  
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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

Robert "Bobby" C. Scott  
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
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Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress
David P. Joyce
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Peter Welch
Member of Congress

John Katko
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Mike Kelly
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Peter T. King
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Steve King
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Doug Lamborn
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Leonard Lance
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Frank A. LoBiondo
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Cynthia M. Lummis
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Martha McSally
Member of Congress

Mark Meadows
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Richard B. Nugent
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Don Young
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Mike Pompeo  
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Dave Reichert  
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Reid J. Ribble  
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E. Scott Rigell  
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David P. Roe  
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Dennis A. Ross  
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Edward E. Royce  
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Steve Russell  
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Matt Salmon  
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Mark Sanford  
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David Schweikert  
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Michael K. Simpson  
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Adrian Smith  
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Roger Williams  
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Joe Wilson  
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Kevin Yoder  
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George Holding  
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Glenn Grothman  
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Joseph R. Pitts
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Greg Walden
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Steve Chabot
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Michael T. McCaul
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Tomi McClintock
Member of Congress

Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress

Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress

Brian Babin
Member of Congress

John Abney Culberson
Member of Congress

Mia Love
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
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Jeb Hensarling
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Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Chris Stewart
Member of Congress
Mimi Walters
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Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress

Tom Reed
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Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress

Bill Flores
Member of Congress

Todd Young
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Lee Zeldin
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Ed Perlmutter
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Bill Posey
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David Loebsack
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Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress

Diane Black
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Tom Graves
Member of Congress
Brett Guthrie
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Steve Stivers
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Cresent Hardy
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Wm. Lacy Clay
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Darrell Issa
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Tim Murphy
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Bill Shuster
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Sean Duffy
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Charles W. Dent
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Ryan A. Costello
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