

JOHNNY MAUTZ
Legislative District 37
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,
and Wicomico Counties

Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

July 18, 2023

The Honorable Wes Moore
Governor
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore,

Unfortunately, there is a dramatic influx of imported crabmeat, which is creating a dire economic situation for our local commercial crabbing industry, in particular our crab processors.

As an example, one pound of imported jumbo lump crabmeat typically retails between \$11-\$12, while the retail price for locally processed jumbo lump crabmeat has dropped from \$48-\$45 per pound to \$32 per pound. The price of our local, domestically produced crabmeat cannot compete.

This is a very real and direct threat to our local processors, who need our support in renewing demands for federal tariffs. Although this situation is not new, it has been exasperated by inflation, which is driving consumers to the lower cost imports. Meanwhile, our processors are being forced to lower prices at the same time their costs of production are increasing.

Local crab processors provide market for harvesters, they are source of significant employment throughout the region – both directly and indirectly, and they are essential for a health fishery - Maryland crabmeat is a staple of our national economic brand.

We need your help in calling attention to this issue and demanding that our federal government and trade representatives take action to ensure there is fair competition in the domestic crabmeat market.

Please feel free to call on our office if we may be of assistance in this effort and thank you for attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnny Mautz".

Senator Johnny Mautz
District 37 Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, and Wicomico Counties