

**FROZEN WARMWATER SHRIMP FROM BRAZIL, CHINA, INDIA, THAILAND, AND VIETNAM
INVESTIGATION NOS. 731-TA-1063, 1064, 1066-1068 (REVIEW)**

**PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE
UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION**

FEBRUARY 1, 2011

**STATEMENT OF ANGEL TRUONG
VICE CHAIRPERSON
ASIAN AMERICANS FOR CHANGE**

Good morning. My name is Angel Truong. I grew up in a shrimping family in Biloxi, Mississippi, and I am the Vice Chairperson of Asian Americans for Change, a non-profit organization that serves the Vietnamese-American community in the region.

Some people are surprised to learn that 30 to 50 percent of the Gulf region's commercial fishermen are Vietnamese. In fact, the Gulf region has the largest number of Vietnamese residents in the world, outside of Vietnam.

My family's story is typical of many in the community. My father came to the U.S. from Vietnam in 1984. He decided to settle in Biloxi because it would allow him to continue doing what he did in Vietnam, which was shrimping and fishing. When I was growing up, Dad would be away from home for months at a time during the shrimp season, and the money he made is what housed, fed, and clothed our family. My five brothers and sisters and I owe our education and our standard of living to shrimp. In our community, it is not unusual to see kids as young as seven or eight years old helping out on their family's shrimp boat. One of my brothers loved the work so much he is now following in my father's footsteps and shrimping like my father.

When dumped imports started driving down prices for shrimp, the pain it caused our family was immediate and real. My father, after spending arduous weeks away from our family

and out on his boat catching shrimp, would come back to the dock and not be able to make enough money to cover his expenses. Fortunately, the industry took action, and the antidumping orders that were imposed as a result have helped keep my father, my brother, and hundreds of fishermen like them in business. Now they can earn a fair return for their hard work, support their families, and pass the culture of shrimping on to the next generation.

If these orders are revoked, our community would be extremely vulnerable to renewed injury from dumped imports. Many Vietnamese fishermen in our area were devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The storm not only destroyed people's homes and damaged their boats; for some, it took everything they had. Some of the more traditional members of our community keep their life savings secure in their houses instead of banks – the storm left them with nothing but the clothes on their back, just as they had originally arrived in this country. We founded Asian Americans for Change to help the community get back on its feet after Katrina, and we have been helping to rebuild lives one person at a time. The process has been difficult and costly, but the orders gave folks hope that their hard work would be rewarded.

If the orders are revoked, and dumped imports allowed to once again drive down prices, all of this progress will be in jeopardy. We have survived natural disasters, the worst recession in decades, and an unprecedented oil spill. We are dedicated to this industry for the long term, but we can only make it if the competition is fair.

Every April in Biloxi, the Vietnamese community participates in the blessing of the fleet. We also participate in pageants, a shrimp queen is crowned, and we pray for a safe and prosperous season for our fishermen. For us, shrimping is not just a way to make a living, it is a way of life. I ask you to keep these orders in place so we can pass down this rich heritage for many years to come. Thank you.