

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 27, 2026

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

We write in strong support of the four applications for exempted fishing permits (EFP) from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. The red snapper state management model consistently proves to be the best model for anglers in the southeast.

Under the federal model last season, recreational use for red snapper was only two days long. We are proud to support the states as they invest in and apply proposed recreational data collection improvements and research into optimizing state-led management of this important fishery. Congress has long supported investments in red snapper research for the betterment of science-informed management, such as the South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Program. The states' request to extend the season from 39 to 62 days would further advance red snapper science and conservation while providing much needed access to this fishery.

Collectively, recreational fishing across these states produces an annual economic impact of \$27.1 billion while supporting more than 170,000 jobs.¹ In 2022 alone, U.S. anglers spent \$99.4 billion nationwide, more than the revenue of major economic engines like UPS (\$97.2 billion), Lowe's (\$96.3 billion), or Bank of America (\$93.9 billion). Additionally, anglers generate over \$2 billion towards conservation programs through federal excise taxes.

As NOAA has cited, "The United States has the largest and most diverse recreational fisheries in the world", and red snapper is "a culturally and economically important fish for South Atlantic fishing communities".² We thank you for your partnership and support with our South Atlantic partners and we wholeheartedly support the EFP applications requested for Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

¹ [Economic Impacts of Recreational Fishing - ASA](#)

² [NOAA leaps forward on collaborative approach for red snapper | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)

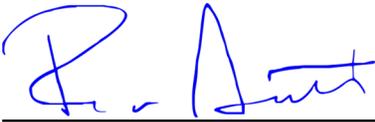
Sincerely,



Ashley Moody
United States Senator



Ted Budd
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator