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June 30, 2000

Ms. Donna R. Koehnke
Secretary
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

DOCKET

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

*Accepted
7/6/00
KJH*

Re: Crabmeat From Swimming Crabs

TA-201-71

Dear Secretary Koehnke:

The Food Marketing Institute, on behalf of our nation's food retailers and wholesalers, strongly oppose the Section 201 petition seeking temporary trade restraints on imports of crabmeat.

The Food Marketing Institute (FMI) is a nonprofit association that represents 1,500 food retailers and wholesalers and their customers in the United States and around the world. FMI's domestic member companies operate approximately 21,000 retail food stores with a combined annual sales volume of \$300 billion – three-quarters of all grocery store sales in the United States. FMI's retail membership is composed of large multi-store chains, small regional firms and independent supermarkets.

In order to meet the needs of their customers, our membership purchases both fresh and pasteurized crabmeat from a number of suppliers, domestic and foreign. Fresh crabmeat has a very short shelf life. Pasteurized crabmeat has an extended shelf life and maintains a quality texture. The objective of seafood purchasers within our industry is to purchase crabmeat with consistent quality and availability. The year round availability of imported crabmeat has enabled the industry to increase total crabmeat sales. Domestic processors benefit when crabmeat consumption increases.

The imposition of Section 201 sanctions would harm consumers by reducing supply and raising prices. Accordingly, we urge the International Trade Commission to reject the Section 201 petition.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Hammonds
President and CEO

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