



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

NEWS RELEASE

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Baucus Comments on U.S.- Chile Free Trade Agreement Progress

Chile Grants Recognition of U.S. Meat Inspection and Standards, Positive Step for American Ranchers

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) U.S. Senator Max Baucus today noted progress in talks between U.S. and Chilean negotiators to establish reciprocal recognition of meat inspection and grading standards. News of Chile's publication of a final decree regarding U.S. beef, lamb, and pork comes just two days before signing of the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement on Friday.

"I'm pleased to hear that Chile has signed and published a final decree granting immediate access to U.S. processed beef, lamb, and pork products from federally certified U.S. plants, and also that Chile will recognize U.S. grades of beef," Baucus said. "This reflects significant progress toward finalizing a successful agreement that benefits America's ranchers look forward to similar progress on poultry standards."

The Senate Finance Committee plans to hold a hearing this month on the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement, as well as the U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. On May 22, Senator Baucus and Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley (R-IA) sent a joint letter to U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick urging him to resolve the remaining differences over sanitary and phytosanitary standards that have served as impediments to the export of U.S. agriculture products to Chile.

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