



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2011

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NMA SUPPORTS COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

OAKLAND, CA - National Meat Association supports progress made yesterday by the Obama Administration on finalizing United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement and paving the way for congressional approval of the deal later this year. The agreement was first signed in 2007, but has stalled since then.

“This agreement will create a significant new opportunity for U.S. meat exporters. We are glad to see progress being made and urge Congress to approve the agreement before their August recess,” said NMA CEO Barry Carpenter

The Colombia FTA is a comprehensive free trade agreement. When the Colombia FTA enters into force, more than 80% of U.S. exports of consumer and industrial products to Colombia will become duty-free, with the remaining tariffs on those products phased out over defined time periods. Agricultural commodities will benefit from the Agreement as more than half of current U.S. farm exports to Colombia become duty-free. For instance, Colombia will immediately eliminate duties on high-quality beef, bacon, and the vast majority of processed products, among other things.

NMA is also urging Congress to take up the Korea FTA and the Panama FTA, as well as this agreement with Colombia. Full implementation of these three free-trade agreements could represent as much as an additional \$2.3 billion in meat and poultry exports.

National Meat Association is a non-profit trade association. Since 1946, NMA has represented meat packers and processors, equipment manufacturers and food suppliers who provide services to the meat industry. The association has members throughout the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia and Mexico.