

USTR 100 DAYS PROGRESS REPORT

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO TRADE

Resuming Shipments of American Beef to Chile. Since September 2008, Chile had blocked US beef exports pending clarification of the FTA provision as to which USDA entity certifies beef grade labeling. After agreement was reached on this clarification, shipments of American beef to Chile resumed immediately.

Expanded US-EU Agreement to Facilitate Trade in Marine Equipment. USTR reached an expanded agreement with the EU under which designated marine equipment (e.g., navigational equipment, life saving equipment and fire safety products) that comply with US requirements will be accepted for sale in the EU without additional European product testing – thereby reducing the time and expense for selling these products in the EU.

Ensured Japan Filled Its Rice Import Quota: In March 2009, Japan completely filled its rice import quota for the Japanese fiscal year 2008, which it failed to do in 2007. USTR, working with other U.S. agencies, repeatedly urged Japan to meet its WTO commitment to provide minimum market access opportunities for imported rice. The U.S. share of rice imports for Japanese fiscal year 2008 (ending March 31) was about 382,000 metric tons, which is a little over 50 percent of the total Japanese rice imports.

Lifting Ban on U.S. Poultry Exports into Sri Lanka: Recently, the Government of Sri Lanka lifted restrictions on imports of poultry from Arkansas, Virginia and Idaho. The restrictions were imposed due to LPAI (low pathogenic avian influenza) detections in the these states. USG officials pressed for the lifting of these bans during the TIFA talks with Sri Lankan government officials last summer.

Ensuring Continued Access to Peruvian Market for US Cotton Producers. USTR successfully defended U.S. domestic support programs for cotton in a countervailing duty investigation conducted by Peru at the request of Peruvian domestic cotton producers. In April, the Peruvian authorities concluded their investigation and denied the request for countervailing duties.

ENFORCEMENT

Correcting Canada's Breach of the Softwood Lumber Agreement. In March of 2008, an arbitral tribunal found that Canada breached the Softwood Lumber Agreement by failing to properly calculate export quotas for four provinces during the first six months of 2007. In February 2009, the tribunal determined that it would be appropriate for Canada to compensate for its breach by imposing a 10 percent export charge on

exports of softwood lumber products from Eastern Canada until \$54.8 million is collected. Canada refused to impose the export charge. In response, the United States is imposing customs duties consistent with the tribunal's determination.

Won WTO Case Against China Regarding Intellectual Property Protection. The WTO Dispute Settlement Body adopted a panel report that found in favor of the U.S. challenge to China's legal system for protecting and enforcing copyrights and trademarks. China is expected to come into compliance with the WTO rulings on these issues.

Completed "Special 301" Review on Intellectual Property Protection. USTR completed its annual review of intellectual property protection and enforcement around the world. The resulting report will be released to the public on April 30, 2009, and will highlight growing concerns with certain of our trading partners.

EFFICIENT AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT

USTR Takes Final Step Towards Paperless Rulemaking. In February, USTR opened their online rulemaking process, allowing other agencies to add and review supporting documents associated with the notices. We are also working with GPO to submit Federal Register notices electronically. Once this is completed, USTR's public solicitation and comment process will not only be fully accessible online but also entirely paperless, avoiding the generation of approximately 30 linear feet of paper files per year.

Updating USTR Website. The USTR website, which has not been updated in several years, is in the process of being updated. The new design is easier to navigate and brings USTR into compliance with rules for accessibility for the visually impaired.

Released Summary of ACTA Negotiations. USTR brought a new level of transparency to the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) negotiations by working with trading partners to prepare a detailed summary of issues under negotiation. USTR is considering additional transparency measures for these and other trade negotiations.