

Asociación de Productores de Avícolas de Chile
Santiago, Chile

Docket Clerk
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
300 12th Street, SW.,
Room 102, Cotton Annex
Washington, DC 20250.

07 MAR 27 09:59:00
FBI - WASHINGTON

Subject: Docket No. 2006-0030 –
The proposed rule to add Chile to the list of countries eligible to export poultry and poultry products to the United States.

Dear Ms. Sally White:

The Asociación de Productores Avícolas de Chile (APA) is writing to express its strong support for the proposed rule to add Chile to the list of countries eligible to export poultry and poultry products to the United States. See Federal Register, Volume 72, Page 8293 (Feb. 26, 2007).

APA is a trade association serving the poultry producers industry in Chile. APA pursues the rationalization, development and protection of the national poultry production industry, and serves as the institutional representative to governmental authorities, industrialists, retailers, consumers and other agricultural organizations.

APA welcomes this opportunity to thank FSIS for the publication of the proposed rule to allow the importation of poultry and poultry products from Chile and to encourage the prompt finalization of the rule. The proposed rule is a very important step in achieving the goals of the June 6, 2003 poultry side letter to the United States -- Chile- Free Trade Agreement.

We appreciate the thoroughness with which FSIS has examined all of the laws, regulations and related documents relevant to poultry inspection in Chile, and we have done all we could so that all requested documentation has been supplied to FSIS. The document review focused on risk areas (e.g., contamination possibilities, status of diseases, processing and sanitation measures, testing for chemical residues, and measure to insure compliance and prevent economic fraud) and the relevant standards, inspection

activities, and resource allocations. There were no significant issues raised by the document review. During the past year, FSIS also sent technical experts to visit Chile to evaluate the poultry inspection system in operation, including plant facilities and equipment, laboratories, training programs, and in-plant inspection operations.

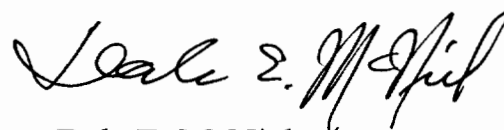
On the basis of the document review and the on-site visits, FSIS has determined that the Chilean poultry inspection system is equivalent to the U.S. system. Therefore, it is finally the time to open the border for reciprocal bilateral trade of poultry and poultry products.

The elimination of regulatory barriers to trade in poultry products benefits American food processors and consumers by providing greater choice in the marketplace and stimulating greater competition among suppliers. The proposed rule to allow imports of poultry products from Chile is a very important step in liberalizing the international trade of poultry, and we commend FSIS for taking this major step.

We ask FSIS to please expedite the finalization of the rule so that importers can begin the process of obtaining safe and wholesome poultry products from Chile for the benefit of American jobs and consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale E. McNiel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dale E. McNiel