

Rocky Mountain News

& THE DENVER POST

U.S. indicts 11 for eco-terror crimes

■ Vail fire, arsons may be solved after informants betray shadowy family

■ Even convictions not likely to be...

Japan resumes beef ban

■ Musgrave threatens to push economic sanctions. 10

Stock show producers protest U.S. penalty. 70

FORT COLLINS
COLORADOAN

Japan halts U.S. beef again

State lawmakers concerned; Musgrave talks about trade sanctions

Greeley Tribune

U.S. beef is a safe product'

Musgrave threatens Japan over beef ban

By M.E. Sprengelmeyer, Rocky Mountain News
January 19, 2006

Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, R-Colo., is threatening trade retaliation against Japan if it re-imposes a ban on U.S. beef imports. Members of Colorado's congressional delegation expressed varying degrees of disappointment Friday, after Japan's agriculture minister recommended halting imports of American beef because of a recent shipment considered at risk for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or "mad cow disease."

It was just weeks ago that Japan lifted its two-year ban. While Colorado's two U.S. Senators expressed disappointment in diplomatic terms on Friday, the news prompted a stern reaction from Musgrave, who issued a sternly-worded statement threatening economic sanctions.

"Japanese government officials need to decide if they are going to accept the internationally recognized scientific standards that make American beef the safest in the world, or if they are going to respond to the knee-jerk reactions of a minority of their citizens that oppose the importing of our beef," Musgrave said in the release.

"We are doing the leg work to take action towards sanctions if Japan decides to officially continue their embargo," Musgrave spokesman Aaron Johnson said later.

"It's still early, but the congresswoman is serious about holding the Japanese accountable and opening up the markets," Johnson said.

Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., who brokered a meeting of various members of Congress with the Japanese Ambassador last year, said it was "disheartening" to hear that a beef shipment from a plant in New York state contained bone material that the United States had agreed not to send to Japan because of "mad cow disease" concerns.

"The Japanese government has only recommended the ban be re-imposed," Allard said in a release. "Hopefully, quick action by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will prevent another ban from becoming reality."

"I continue to have confidence in the safety of U.S. beef," Allard said. "I will work with the Japanese to keep our exports moving, and to reinforce Japan's confidence in the wholesomeness of U.S. beef."

Sen. Ken Salazar, D-Colo., said he was "troubled" by news of the banned material being found in the shipment.

"Over the past couple years we have worked with Japan to formulate standards by which they would accept U.S. beef and it is imperative we hold to those standards," said Salazar, who sits on the Senate Agriculture committee. "I am pleased that (the) USDA has reacted quickly . . . by sending a team to Japan and requiring additional export protocols in this country."

The extra requirements reportedly include unannounced inspections at exporting facilities and more training for U.S. officials who oversee the process, Salazar said.

"I will continue to work with my colleagues, the USDA and our trading partners to ensure that we continue to take the steps necessary to provide consumers with the safest beef in the world," Salazar said.

To learn more about Congresswoman Musgrave please visit
her official website at www.house.gov/musgrave

[Unsubscribe](#)