

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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June 15, 2005

Dr. Barbara Masters
Administrator
Food Safety and Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
300 12th Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20250

02-019P
02-019P-1
Arlen Specter
Rick Santorum

Dear Dr. Masters,

We are writing to express our strong support for the Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) proposed rule that would add Chile to the list of countries eligible to export meat and meat products into the United States.

We are advised that listing Chile as a country eligible to export meat products to the United States would expand international markets and enhance the free flow of trade between Chile and the United States, consistent with the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement. It is our understanding that eliminating the existing trade barrier for Chilean red meat will provide American meat producers with critical access to foreign markets.

Additionally, we are informed that increased Chilean imports will lead to additional transportation, warehousing and distribution jobs at the Port of Philadelphia, which is critical to the Pennsylvania economy.

Accordingly, we urge FSIS to publish a final rule on Chilean meat imports as quickly as possible. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter
United States Senate



Rick Santorum
United States Senate