

The Meat Trade Institute
Spencer Savings Bank Building
213 South Avenue East
Cranford, NJ 07016

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Docket Clerk 02-019P
U.S. Department of Agriculture 02-019P-10
Food Safety and Inspection Service John Calcagno
300 12th Street, SW.,
Room 102, Cotton Annex
Washington, DC 20250.

Subject: Docket No. 02-019P – the proposed rule to add Chile to the list of countries eligible to export meat and meat products to the United States.

Dear Ms. Sally White:

The Meat Trade Institute is writing to express its strong support for the proposed rule to add Chile to the list of countries eligible to export meat and meat products to the United States.

The Meat Trade Institute is a trade association serving the meat and poultry industry in the northeastern United States. The Meat Trade Institute seeks to build and strengthen the relationships of its members with government, labor, and all other segments of the meat and poultry industry; to create a better public image of the industry; to help set up and maintain high standards of conducting business; to use the collective strength and intelligence of its members to eliminate unfair competition; and to help solve industry problems in the most equitable and harmonious way.

We welcome this opportunity to provide our views on the proposed rule to add Chile to the list of countries eligible to export meat and meat products to the United States. The Meat Trade Institute strongly supports the proposed rule.

FSIS has thoroughly examined the laws and regulations of Chile and closely evaluated the Chilean meat inspection system in action. FSIS has concluded that sufficient controls are in place in Chile to ensure that meat and meat products processed in Chile and exported to the United States will not pose a risk to consumers in the United States. On this basis, FSIS has determined

that the Chilean meat inspection system is equivalent to the U.S. system.

The elimination of regulatory barriers to trade in meat benefits American meat processors and consumers by providing greater choice in the marketplace and stimulating greater competition among suppliers. The proposed rule to allow imports of red meat from Chile is a very important step in liberalizing the international trade of meat, and we commend FSIS for taking this step. Please expedite the finalization of the rule so that importers can begin the process of obtaining safe and wholesome meat from Chile.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Calcagno".

Mr. John Calcagno,
President, The Meat Trade Institute