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Docket Clerk 02-019P  
U.S. Department of Agriculture 02-019P-11  
Food Safety and Inspection Service Dale E. McNiel  
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 Asociación Gremial de Productores de Cerdos de Chile (ASPROCER) 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.

ASPROCER is a trade association serving the pork producers industry in Chile, established in 1985 by the pork producers. ASPROCER pursues the rationalization, development and protection of the national pork production industry, and serves as the institutional representative to governmental authorities, industrialists, retailers, consumers and other agricultural organizations.

ASPROCER welcomes this opportunity to thank FSIS for the publication of the proposed rule to add Chile to the list of countries eligible to export meat and meat products to the United States and to encourage the prompt finalization of the rule.

We appreciate the thoroughness with which FSIS has examined all of the laws, regulations and related documents relevant to meat 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 animal 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 twice sent technical experts to visit Chile to evaluate the red meat inspection system including plant facilities and equipment, laboratories, training programs, and in-plant inspection operations and HACCP programs. The minor discrepancies noted on the first review were promptly remedied before the second visit.

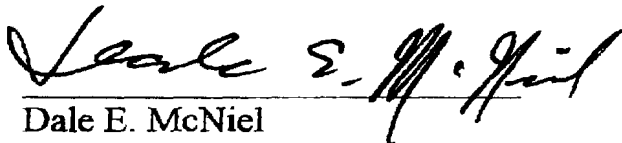
On the basis of the document review and the on-site visits, FSIS has determined that the Chilean meat inspection system is equivalent to the U.S. system. Therefore, it is finally the time to open the border for reciprocal bilateral trade of pork and other red meat.

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.

Submitted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2005



Dale E. McNiel

Washington Representative for The Asociación Gremial de Productores de Cerdos de Chile