



July 11, 2005

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ConAgra Foods, Inc.
Suite 950
1627 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

TEL: 202-223-5111
FAX: 202-223-5111

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Docket Clerk
US Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
300 12th St, SW
Room 102 Cotton Annex
Washington, DC 20250

[Docket No. 02-019P] Addition of Chile to the List of Countries Eligible To Export Meat and Meat Products to the United States; 70 *FR* 24485; May 10, 2005

Dear Sir or Madam:

ConAgra Foods submits the following comments on the docket referenced above.

ConAgra Foods, Inc. is a diversified food company with sales across a wide variety of product categories, including frozen meals, processed meats, margarine, puddings, popcorn, oils and soups. ConAgra products that comprise our 50 major brands include Healthy Choice, Chef Boyardee, Marie Callender's, Hebrew National, Slim Jim and Banquet.

ConAgra supports the FSIS proposal to add Chile to the list of countries eligible to export meat and meat products to the United States.

Per its rigorous process for determining eligibility of foreign countries to export meat or poultry products to the US, the FSIS review of Chile's laws, regulations, and other materials has shown that its meat inspection system includes requirements equivalent to all provisions in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) and its implementing regulations.

According to the FSIS audit report for Chile, the FSIS on-site review team concluded that Chile's implementation of meat slaughter and processing standards and procedures was equivalent to those of the United States. Under these circumstances, the US is obligated, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to permit the import of products from Chile that comply with U.S. food safety regulations (e.g., those promulgated by FSIS and APHIS for meat and poultry).

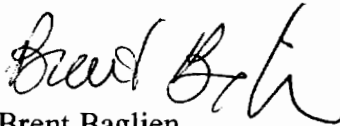
We concur with FSIS that listing Chile as eligible to export meat products to the US will expand international markets and enhance the free flow of trade with Chile. This action is supportive of US trade initiatives and USDA's policy of liberalizing agricultural trade with Chile, and would honor US obligations to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

We also recognize that besides relying on its initial determination of a country's eligibility, coupled with ongoing reviews to ensure that products shipped to the United States are safe, wholesome, and properly labeled and packaged, FSIS also relies on a risk based inspection system that will include reinspection of selected samples of meat and poultry products as they are offered for entry into the United States.

We also believe that benefits would include increased availability to US manufacturers and US consumers of a greater quantity of meat items. Both nations would benefit from an expansion of trade in meat as part of a wide range of commodities.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Baglien". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brent" being more prominent and the last name "Baglien" following in a similar style.

Brent Baglien
Vice President, Government Affairs
ConAgra Foods, Inc.