



MEAT IMPORTERS COUNCIL OF AMERICA, INC.

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July 11, 2005

Docket Clerk,
U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Food Safety and Inspection Service,
300 12th Street, SW.,
Room 102 Cotton Annex,
Washington, DC 20250

02-019P
02-019P-7
Laurie Bryant

Re: Docket No. 02-019P

This submission is provided on behalf of the Meat Importers Council of America, Inc. ("MICA") pursuant to the soliciting of comments on the Proposed rule re Addition of Chile to the List of Countries Eligible To Export Meat and Meat Products to the United States published in the Federal Register on May 10, 2005 (Volume 70, Number 89), Page 24485-24488, Docket Number 02-019P.

MICA is an incorporated trade association, which represents the U.S. industry that imports fresh, chilled and frozen beef into the United States. MICA's regular members are importers who account for most of the non-NAFTA imports of this product. MICA's membership also includes organizations such as port authorities, refrigerated warehouses, customhouse brokers, etc. who provide services in connection with this imported product, as well as users of the same.

MICA wishes to record our strong support for speedy approval and publication of the final rule to add Chile to the list of countries eligible to export meat and meat products to the United States.

The USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service has evaluated the Chilean inspection system and assessed it as being equivalent to the system employed here in the United States. Therefore to do other than approve Chile to export to the United States would constitute an unjustified trade barrier.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely yours,

Laurie Bryant
Executive Director
Meat Importers Council of America, Inc.