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AFFI Applauds Agreement Advancing U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Pact

McLean, VA – American Frozen Food Institute (AFFI) President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz issued the following statement today applauding a recently completed package of judicial and labor reforms that will help accelerate final implementation of an already negotiated free trade agreement between the U.S. and Colombia.

“AFFI has long pressed for final approval of the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, which allows nearly 80 percent of all U.S. agricultural exports to enter Colombia duty-free immediately upon implementation. The agreement’s significant frozen food benefits will help our industry create new jobs and foster new economic opportunities through dramatically improved access to a fast-growing market.

“The road is now clear for fast action on this accord, and we urge the White House to send the deal to Congress for a vote as soon as possible and look forward to rapid congressional approval.

“At the same time, we also hope for similarly swift approval of pending free trade agreements with South Korea and Panama and a long-term extension of the Andean Trade Preferences and Drug Eradication Act. Further delay in approving these agreements means more lost jobs and more lost ground to foreign economic competitors pursuing their own deals in these critically important markets.”

U.S.-Colombia FTA Frozen Food Benefits

- 20 percent tariff on frozen French fries eliminated immediately.
- 15 percent tariff on frozen strawberries, blackberries, blueberries and raspberries eliminated immediately.
- 15 percent tariff on frozen sweet corn eliminated immediately.
- 15 percent tariff on frozen mixed vegetables eliminated immediately.

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The American Frozen Food Institute is the national trade association that promotes the interests of all segments of the frozen food industry. AFFI works to foster industry development and growth, and advocates before legislative and regulatory entities on the industry’s behalf. For more information, please visit www.affi.org.