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## **American Frozen Food Institute urges Congressional Passage**

MCLEAN, VA - The American Frozen Food Institute (AFFI) today called for congressional passage of the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement.

The Agreement, when approved, will dramatically expand economic opportunities for American farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and service providers, as well as encourage economic reforms in Peru that are helping alleviate poverty in that country.

"The American Frozen Food Institute strongly urges the U.S. Congress to approve the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement," said Leslie G. Sarasin, president and chief executive officer of AFFI. "This agreement will help expand opportunities for the sale of American goods and services, and will be crucial in sustaining economic growth and job creation in this country."

AFFI and other members of the AG Trade Coalition will participate in a rally in support of the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement on Monday, September 10, 2007. The event will be held at 1:30 p.m. in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab, Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, and Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns will be in attendance.

The Senate Finance Committee will hold a hearing on the Peru-U.S. Trade Promotion Agreement issue on Tuesday, September 11, 2007.

Four-fifths of U.S. consumer and industrial products, and more than two-thirds of current U.S. farm exports, will enter Peru duty-free upon implementation of the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement - with other barriers phased out over a few years. The trade agreement will also strengthen intellectual property and investor protections, open services markets, and enhance transparency in government procurement.

The U.S. is Peru's leading trading partner, accounting for 23.3 percent of Peru's exports and supplying 16.4 percent of the country's imports in 2006. Bilateral trade between the two countries has more than doubled over the past decade from \$3 billion in 1996 to \$8.8 billion in two-way trade in 2006.

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*The American Frozen Food Institute is the national trade association that promotes and represents the interests of all segments of the frozen food*

*industry. The Institute fosters industry development and growth, advocates on behalf of the industry before legislative and regulatory entities, and provides additional value-added services for its members and for the benefit of consumers. For more information, visit [www.affi.com](http://www.affi.com).*