



November 3, 2006

Ambassador Susan C. Schwab
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Ambassador Schwab:

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) would like to express our appreciation for your efforts and the efforts of USTR staff regarding the October 25, 2006, announcement that Peru is fully open to all U.S. beef and beef products. U.S. cattle producers look forward to resuming and expanding beef trade with Peru.

Our members recognize that international trade creates opportunities for U.S. cattle producers to grow demand for our product and enhance our long-term profitability. We support international trade policies that aggressively pursue expanded market access for U.S. beef. Provisions contained within the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (PTPA) are precisely the type of market access provisions that allow U.S. beef to compete on a level playing field.

However, the elimination of tariffs on our exports is only part of the process. If we do not have legitimate market access because of sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) barriers to our product, it is an empty win. Producers will never see the fruits of those efforts if we do not hold our trading partners to their international trade commitments.

We urged the Administration to stand firm and accept nothing less than what Peru had agreed upon in their commitments, based upon scientifically sound and internationally accepted criteria – and you did just that. Each of these agreements becomes a precedent for the next, and we applaud your efforts in market re-opening negotiations with the Government of Peru.

With the reopening of the Peruvian market to U.S. beef and beef products, NCBA is now in full support of the PTPA; in fact we consider it one of the best negotiated agreements to date. Your team, led by Ambassador Dick Crowder, is to be commended. We now urge the Administration to send implementing language to the U.S. Congress for ratification of this agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike John".

Mike John
President