

NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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NCGA Applauds Movement on Pending FTAs

The National Corn Growers Association today applauded the Senate Finance Committee's announcement of a mock mark up on the pending Free Trade Agreements with Korea, Colombia and Panama. The committee, chaired by Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.), is planning to consider the draft implementing bills on Thursday, June 30. Mock mark ups provide Committees of jurisdiction the opportunity to offer amendments to the Administration's proposals. Final versions of implementing bills are submitted to Congress for an up or down vote.

"NCGA is greatly encouraged by the movement on the pending FTAs," NCGA President Bart Schott said. "The United States is the largest corn producer and exporter in the world and developing new markets for our country's agricultural products will help our sector lead the nation in economic growth and international competitiveness."

Last year, the United States exported 50.4 million metric tons of corn worldwide. Corn co-products such as distillers grains also represent a growing export market for domestic producers.

"As a producer, it is frustrating to watch other nations achieve preferential access to markets and secure a competitive advantage over U.S. corn and corn products," Schott said. "NCGA strongly supports the pending FTAs with Korea, Colombia and Panama and we look forward to working with Congress to ensure swift passage."

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Founded in 1957, the National Corn Growers Association represents 35,000 dues-paying corn farmers nationwide and the interests of more than 300,000 growers who contribute through corn checkoff programs in their states. NCGA and its 48 affiliated state associations and checkoff organizations work together to create and increase opportunities for their members and their industry. For more information, visit www.ncga.com