



Musgrave confronts Japanese Ambassador on continued beef embargo delays

End of ban is a top priority for Congresswoman

Washington, DC: Yesterday afternoon, Congressman Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04) met personally with Japanese Ambassador Ryozo Kato regarding one of her top priorities, ending the continued embargo on American beef products. Congressman Musgrave met previously with the Ambassador, as well as Japanese Agriculture Counselor Shin Yokoyama on this same issue.

"During our discussion, I expressed to Ambassador Kato my frustration over the continued delays of the Japanese Food Safety Commission," said Musgrave. "Our region of Colorado has the reputation for supplying the best quality beef in the world. Even though the United States cattlemen have met the demands of the Japanese by using internationally recognized science, Japan continues to act unreasonably. It is long past the time for them to stop."

Despite indications from the Japanese government that the Japanese Food Safety Commission will give a favorable report on the safety of U.S. beef, continued weeks of deliberations are extending the ban.

Musgrave recently joined with other Representatives to urge President Bush to devote more personal attention to the delays in resuming beef trade.

Earlier this year when the Congresswoman met earlier this year with the Ambassador, she was joined by a group of nine Senators and one other Representative, including Colorado's Wayne Allard.

Musgrave also led a bi-partisan effort in the House to urge Japanese Ambassador Ryozo Kato to end the trade embargo on American beef products. In a letter to Kato, she stressed the efforts of the U.S. government and the cattlemen to ensure that our beef is safe. Thirty bi-partisan members of the House signed her letter.

The Congresswoman co-sponsored a congressional resolution that calls on Japan to meet its trade obligations under an agreement reached on October 23, 2004. If Japan fails to abide by the agreement, then the U.S. Trade Representative should immediately initiate retaliatory economic measures.

Japan was previously the largest export market for Colorado beef products. Yet, Japan halted trade in December 2003 after BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) was discovered in a Canadian-born cow in Washington state. Estimates indicate about \$100 million have been lost every month since the discovery of BSE.

The state of Colorado ranks fourth in cash receipts for cattle and calves in the nation. (Economic Research Service - USDA 2002).