



MEMORANDUM

TO: Reporters and Editors
FROM: Carol Guthrie for Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.)
RE: development on Korea beef issue

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus issued a brief comment today following news of Korea's suspension of imports of U.S. beef. Even before today's development, Korea maintained unfair restrictions on bone-in beef, as well all beef from cattle over 30 months of age.

Baucus has said that he will not move the pending U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement through the Senate Finance Committee, which oversees U.S. trade policy, until the beef issue is resolved.

From Chairman Baucus:

"This development again raises questions about Korea's willingness to abide by scientific standards when it comes to beef trade. The science is clear. All American beef is safe – whether it has bones or does not. The time is long past for Korea to follow international standards. My patience is running out."