



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

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Statement of Senator Max Baucus regarding U.S. World Trade Organization Challenge against Mexico

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) U.S. Senator Max Baucus, Ranking Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, today issued the following statement, in response to the filing of a World Trade Organization (WTO) challenge by the U.S. against Mexico for the use of antidumping orders on U.S. beef and rice:

“I applaud U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick’s decision to challenge Mexico’s antidumping duties against U.S. beef and rice exports. Montana cattlemen have been fighting these unfair duties for more than three years. I know hardworking rice farmers from other parts of the country have also fought against their duties since imposition a year ago.

“Unfortunately, our dispute with Mexico over these duties is only the tip of the iceberg, at least with regard to agriculture. Mexico has also placed unfair barriers on a host of other commodities, such as dry beans. We cannot allow our trading partners, particularly one as close as Mexico, to continue to block unfairly the market access our ranchers and farmers have fought so hard to earn.

“I pledge my support to this challenge and urge the United States Trade Representative to pursue it with diligence and perseverance until a fair resolution is reached.”