



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

<http://finance.senate.gov>

MEMORANDUM

To: Reporters and Editors
Re: U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement negotiations concluded
Da: Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2006

Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Committee on Finance, today welcomed the announcement by U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab of the completion of negotiations of a U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement. He made the following comment on the announcement.

“This free trade agreement looks like a solid win for the United States. It will benefit U.S. farmers, manufacturers, and service providers, including those in Iowa. I’m especially glad that it will lead to duty-free treatment for U.S. corn, pork, and beef in the Panamanian market. In addition, this agreement will lock in Panama’s zero tariffs on U.S. soybeans. Just as important, in negotiations parallel to those of the free trade agreement, Panama agreed to remove non-scientific based barriers to U.S. agricultural exports, including beef and pork. I look forward to working with my colleagues across the aisle to implement this important agreement in the next Congress.”