

The Meat Trade Institute

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Docket Clerk
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
300 12th Street, SW.
Room 102, Cotton Annex
Washington, DG 20250

Subject: Docket No. FSIS - 2006-0030 - the proposed rule to add Chile to the list of countries eligible to export poultry products to the United States.

Dear Ms. Sally White:

The Meat Trade Institute is writing to express its strong support for the proposed rule to add Chile to the list of countries eligible to export poultry products to the United States in response to the proposed rule published by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). See Federal Register, Volume 72, Page 8293 (Feb. 26, 2007).

The Meat Trade Institute is a trade association serving the meat and poultry industry in the northeastern United States. The Meat Trade Institute seeks to build and strengthen the relationships of its members 'with government, labor, and a)1 other segments of the meat and poultry industry; to create a better public image of the industry; to help set up and maintain high standards of conducting business; to use the collective strength and intelligence of its members to eliminate unfair competition; and to help solve industry problems in the most equitable and harmonious way.

We welcome this opportunity to provide our views on the proposed rule to add Chile to the list of countries eligible to export poultry products to the United States. The Meat Trade Institute strongly supports the proposed rule. HIS has thoroughly examined the laws and regulations of Chile and closely evaluated the Chilean poultry inspection system in action.

FSIS has concluded that sufficient controls are in place in Chile to ensure that poultry products processed in Chile and exported to the United States will not pose a risk to consumers in the United States. 4n this basis, FSIS has determined that the Chilean poultry inspection system is equivalent to the U.S. system.

The elimination of regulatory barriers to trade in poultry benefits American food processors and consumers by providing greater choice in. the marketplace and stimulating greater competition among suppliers. The proposed rule to allow imports of poultry products from Chile is a very important step in liberalizing the international trade of poultry, and we commend FSIS for taking this step. Please expedite the finalization of the rule so that importers can begin the process of obtaining safe and wholesome poultry products from Chile.

Thank, you far the opportunity to present these comments.

John Calcagno, President
Meat Trade Institute