

October 22, 2009

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

We are writing to you today on behalf of the U.S. beef exporting industry regarding access to the Taiwan market. We welcome the October 22 announcement by Taiwan's Department of Health (DOH) that Taiwan will expand access to its market to permit imports of U.S. beef and beef products consistent with the guidelines of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

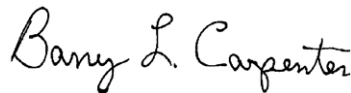
While U.S. exporters are confident that all beef and beef products produced in the United States are safe regardless of age, the U.S. beef exporting industry is prepared to temporarily limit beef exports to Taiwan to products from cattle less than thirty months of age under a program verified by USDA as a transitional measure to ensure an orderly expansion to a full market opening.

To facilitate this commitment, U.S. exporters have requested that as soon as the "Protocol of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)-Related Measures for the Importation of Beef and Beef Products for Human Consumption from the Territory of the Authorities Represented by the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT)," which allows for expansion of market access for U.S. beef, becomes effective, the U.S. Government establish an age-verification Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program for Taiwan. USDA AMS has already confirmed that it is taking the necessary steps to establish this QSA program.

Sincerely,



Philip M. Seng
President/CEO
U.S. Meat Export Federation



Barry L. Carpenter
CEO/Executive Director
National Meat Association



J. Patrick Boyle
President/CEO
American Meat Institute