

## 2/09/2005 Moran Introduces Legislation to Ease Trade with Cuba

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Legislation Reduces Restrictions for Cuban Agricultural Trade

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today introduced legislation that works to clarify federal regulations for agriculture trade with Cuba. The bipartisan legislation mirrors legislation introduced in the Senate today by Senator Pat Roberts.

"Cuba represents a multi-million dollar market for American farm products," Moran said. "For too long, other nations have stepped in to fill the gap in the market once dominated by the United States. While we have successfully opened the door to trade with Cuba, bureaucracy and vague regulations have kept us from moving forward. Producers trying to expand agriculture exports should not face their biggest roadblock in Washington, D.C."

In 2000, Moran led the charge to pass legislation lifting sanctions on agriculture trade with Cuba. The legislation allowed for the export of Kansas farm products to Cuba for the first time in 38 years. That legislation overwhelmingly passed in the House, 301 to 116.

Today's legislation works to clarify Congress' intent in the 2000 measure to legally sell agriculture goods to Cuba and streamlines the trade process. Additionally, the bill will make it easier for U.S. agriculture producers to travel to Cuba to sell, market or finalize any sales or trade agreements.

"Our Cuban trade policy is broken," Moran said. "Instead of bringing Fidel Castro to his knees economically, we have strengthened him politically and have penalized American farmers in the process. Farmers and ranchers face enough challenges just keeping their family farms running, and we should not be turning business away. I have urged my colleagues to support our farmers through this legislation."

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