

3/02/2006 Moran Presses Japanese to Reopen Market to U.S. Beef

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Meets with Ambassador of Japan to Discuss Timeline

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran yesterday met with the Ambassador of Japan, Ryozo Kato, to press the Japanese to reopen its market to U.S. beef. Moran requested the meeting to question the Ambassador about when American beef can be expected back in Japan.

"The last thing our farmers and ranchers need right now is for the Japanese market to remain closed," Moran said. "We have been patient, but that patience will soon come to an end."

Japan closed its market in January - only one month after reopening it - when ineligible veal was discovered in a shipment from New York. Moran visited with Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns after USDA released the results of its investigation that stated the veal posed no risk to human health. Japan is now examining the findings of the USDA report.

"I pressed the Ambassador for prompt resumption of trade," Moran said. "It is time for Japan to abide by its agreement. They have no reason to worry about the quality of cattle or the safety of our beef."

Moran is a senior member of the House Committee on Agriculture.

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