

# Musgrave urges U.S. Trade Ambassador to protect Colorado's Agriculture producers

**Washington, DC:** Today, Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04) met with the U.S. Trade Representative's Chief Agriculture Negotiator, Ambassador Allen Johnson, urging him to ensure Colorado's agriculture producers are protected in the development of international free trade agreements.

"I was very encouraged by our lengthy meeting today, and pleased to see Ambassador Johnson is dedicated to protecting America's agriculture producers," said Musgrave. "I stressed to him the important role Colorado has in our nation's export market of agriculture products, as well as the important correlation of protecting the agricultural industries in trade agreements to our state's economic vitality."

Among the agriculture trade related topics Musgrave stressed with Ambassador Johnson are:

## Ø Resuming Beef Trade with

**Japan:** With our nation facing a critical problem due to the current ban on American beef products in Japan, Musgrave urged Ambassador Johnson to take tough action to re-open trade. She petitioned him to encourage Japanese officials to come to the negotiations table with reasonable expectations on safety testing, or face aggressive actions by the United States.

Ø **Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA):** Musgrave stressed the importance of protecting domestic sugar producers in all trade agreements. She emphasized the importance of CAFTA because of the precedent it establishes for the sugar trade.

Ø **Australian Free Trade Agreement:** Musgrave expressed her satisfaction with this agreement in regards to its agriculture provisions, especially in wheat trade. However, she relayed to Ambassador Johnson she is working with dairy

groups in her district to review and monitor the impacts this agreement will have on that industry.

Congresswoman Musgrave realizes the CAFTA and Australian trade agreements are very important, and she is pushing for them to come to a vote before Congress so Colorado's farmers and ranchers can begin taking advantage of their key provisions.

Musgrave is a member of the House Committee on Agriculture. In addition, she and her husband were owners and operators of a custom hay baling business in her hometown of Fort Morgan for 25 years.

Ambassador Allen Johnson conducts critical trade negotiations and enforces trade agreements that relate to U.S. agricultural products and services. He was nominated for by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate on July 19, 2001.