



# Committee On Finance

**Max Baucus, Ranking Member**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Statement of U.S. Senator Max Baucus Markup of the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement Implementing Bill**

We're here today formally to report legislation to implement the U.S. Morocco Free Trade Agreement. We began this process last week, when we had a walk-through and informal markup of the legislation.

Before then, Senator Grassley and I worked hard to address committee members' concerns with this legislation. And I believe that we were successful. I thank my good friend the Chairman for his leadership. And I thank the other members of the committee for their willingness to work cooperatively to get this legislation done in a timely manner.

Many hope the Senate will pass the Morocco implementing legislation before the end of the week. I count myself among them.

The agreement with Morocco is a good one. In some ways, it sets a new standard for U.S. trade agreements with developing countries.

For instance, Morocco has agreed to a high level of protection for intellectual property rights. The agreement includes state-of-the-art protections for digital copyrights and trademarks, expands protection for patents, and contains tough penalties for piracy and counterfeiting.

I fought to ensure that U.S. wheat exporters would not be left out of the agreement. Wheat is important for many U.S. states, including my home state of Montana.

The agreement creates new tariff rate quotas for wheat that could lead to a 5-fold increase in U.S. exports to Morocco. It will allow U.S. wheat producers to compete in Morocco on a level playing field with European competitors.

The agreement also gives U.S. beef producers new access to Morocco for their high-quality beef exports.

The free trade agreement negotiations have spurred Morocco to engage in significant domestic reforms. For example, Morocco recently enacted a new labor law and a new law on child labor, both of which were drafted with the help of the International Labor Organization.

By voting to approve the Morocco implementing legislation, we can support reformers in Morocco. We can also confirm our close ties with Morocco, the first country to recognize the United States after the American Revolution, and therefore one of our oldest friends in the world. I urge my Colleagues to support this legislation.

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