

MEMORANDUM

To: Reporters and Editors

From: The Communications Office of Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.)

Re: Baucus Comment on Japan's Desire to Join the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Negotiations

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) commented today following Japan's announcement that it wishes to begin consultations to participate in the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations. From Chairman Baucus:

"Today's announcement by Japan that it wishes to begin consultations on participating in the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations represents the first step in a process that we hope will achieve a new level of openness in Japan and the resolution of long-standing trade concerns, particularly in the area of agricultural goods like beef. U.S. ranchers and farmers produce world-class beef and agricultural products that are 100 percent safe, so Japan needs to eliminate the unscientific and unjustified barriers to our exports. We look forward to robust consultations with the administration on how best to ensure that Japan's interest in the TPP results in increased market access for American products in Japan. Improved market access for our exports will mean an economic boost and more jobs for ranchers, farmers, workers and businesses here at home."

###