



**NATIONAL CHICKEN COUNCIL**

1015 FIFTEENTH STREET NW, SUITE 930  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
PHONE: 202-296-2622  
FAX: 202-293-4005

September 24, 2009

The Honorable Ronald Kirk  
U.S. Trade Representative  
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

Thank you for meeting with representatives of the U.S. poultry industry earlier this month to discuss a number of highly important trade issues that are vital to the economic health of our business. In addition to the very critical problems involving the two largest export markets for U.S. poultry, China and Russia, the long-standing issue of re-establishing poultry exports to the European Union was briefly noted at the meeting.

Please know your support for resolving the issues involving Russia, China, and the European Union is recognized and most appreciated. In addition to expressing our appreciation for the good meeting we had with you, I take this opportunity to re-confirm the U.S. poultry industry's position that the United States should continue to pursue with the European Union resolution of the issue involving the in-plant use of antimicrobials for poultry that is exported to the European Union.

Briefly re-capping the situation, I note that on January 16, 2009 the U.S. Trade Representative requested World Trade Organization dispute settlement consultations with the European Union in an effort to move the EU toward approving four antimicrobials that reduce pathogens on processed poultry. Official WTO consultations on the issue were conducted on February 11, 2009 to no avail. Since these official discussions resulted in no resolution of the issue, it would be most appropriate to take the issue to the next step in the WTO dispute settlement process, namely requesting that the issue be addressed by a WTO dispute settlement panel. Joining the National Chicken Council in strongly urging USTR to pursue this course of action are USA Poultry & Egg Export Council, National Turkey Federation, and National Association of Manufacturers.

If you or your staff would like additional information regarding our joint request, please let me know. All of us look forward to working with you to achieve a favorable decision and a successful outcome from the WTO dispute settlement process.

Sincerely,

George Watts  
President

djn