



July 21, 2003

Congressman John Boehner  
1011 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Boehner:

On behalf of the hard-working Ohio men and women working in the corn refining facility, the Corn Refiners Association, Inc. (CRA) urges your support for the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Chile. The U.S.-Chile FTA will provide new market opportunities for refined corn products, and sets a strong precedent for how future trade agreements should be negotiated.

As you know, the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Ohio is home to a major corn refining facility. The corn refining industry currently exports a number of products to Chile that support jobs and agriculture throughout Ohio. These products include corn oil, citric acid, ethanol, various types of corn sweeteners, and corn starch.

The U.S.-Chile FTA will benefit our exports of corn oil, because Chile has agreed to eliminate its price band mechanism for vegetable oils in 12 years. This is a key provision that was not part of the EU or Canadian FTAs with Chile. In the interim, U.S. exports to Chile will be treated at least as good as exports from all other countries, if not better. This will open Chile's market to our corn oil exports – and sets a fine example for future FTA's in the elimination of tariffs and related trade barriers.

The U.S.-Chile FTA also sets an important precedent by excluding U.S. exports of high fructose corn syrup (HFCS) to Chile when Chile's net surplus producer status on sweeteners is calculated. This "de-linking" of HFCS with sugar imports will help to insulate the U.S. corn industry from any sweetener concerns that may arise.

We appreciate your past and continued support for free trade legislation, and hope we can count on your vote for the U.S-Chile FTA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Erickson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Audrae Erickson  
President  
Corn Refiners Association, Inc.

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