

A countervailing duty can only be imposed when an exporting country's government programs are found to confer a subsidy and the alleged subsidized imports cause or threaten injury to the domestic industry of the importing country. Canada is using the FTA dispute settlement process to challenge the U.S. countervailing duty on both grounds.

"Today's DOC finding does not affect our access to the U.S. market," Mr. Hockin stressed. "The Canadian government remains committed to fighting the countervailing duty through to the end. We will continue to work closely with our provincial and industry partners in rebutting the Commerce opinion before the FTA panel."

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874