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# news release

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## MINISTERS DISAPPOINTED BY U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION RULING ON CANADIAN PORK IMPORTS

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie and Agriculture Minister Don Mazankowski expressed strong disappointment with the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) decision earlier today that imports of Canadian pork are causing injury to U.S. pork producers. Countervailing duties of eight cents per kilogram will now be imposed on exports of fresh, chilled and frozen pork to the U.S. market.

Mr. Mazankowski said, "We do not agree with this ruling. In our view, the Canadian industry had made a compelling case before the Commission for a no-injury finding in this investigation."

Mr. Crosbie reiterated that the Federal Government had already formally requested the establishment of a panel under Chapter 19 of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, to review the earlier decision by the U.S. Commerce Department that Canadian pork exports to the U.S. are benefitting from countervailable subsidies.

Mr. Crosbie said, "We filed this request for a panel review, in concert with the Canadian Pork Council, the Canadian Meat Council and the Government of Alberta, to defend against this countervailing action."

In addition, the two Ministers confirmed that Canada will invoke dispute settlement procedures with respect to the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) consistency of the methodology used by the U.S. Commerce Department, in which stabilization payments to pork producers were deemed to be automatically passed through to the final product.

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Minister Crosbie concluded that "these actions clearly demonstrate the Government's resolve to exercise vigorously Canada's rights in defence of our trade interests."

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For more information, media may contact:

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