

# Wayne Allard

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**SENATOR ALLARD ASKS JAPANESE AMBASSADOR  
TO PROVIDE A TIME LINE FOR RE-ADMITTING U.S. BEEF IMPORTS**  
*Allard hands Ambassador Kato letter inviting Japanese Prime Minister  
to visit Colorado, inspect ranches, meat industry facilities*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado), joined by 13 other Senators and U.S. Representatives, met with the Japanese Ambassador to the United States Friday to press for a quick end to the Japanese embargo on U.S. beef imports. Among those present at the meeting were Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Saxby Chambliss (R-Georgia), Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran (R-Mississippi), and Intelligence Committee Chairman Pat Roberts (R-Kansas).

“I have asked the Japanese to provide us with a timeline indicating what steps they will take to resolve this embargo in a way that benefits both nations,” Senator Allard said. “I have the highest respect for Ambassador Kato, and am confident this will be resolved promptly.”

“But during our discussion, I made it clear to Ambassador Kato that this is not a food safety issue, but a trade issue. U.S. beef is safe,” Senator Allard said. “I am happy to report that the ambassador indicated that he thinks Japan should begin importing U.S. beef again as quickly as possible.”

“Bottom line here, we made it clear to the ambassador that Japan faces serious consequences if it does not re-open its markets to U.S. beef in the near future,” the Senator said. “I delivered a letter to the ambassador inviting Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to visit Colorado, where I will personally show him the finest cattle operations and processing facilities anywhere.”

Last week Senator Allard wrote a letter to the ambassador, signed by 19 of his Senate colleagues, expressing concern over the trade impasse and the possibility of economic sanctions being imposed if the matter is not resolved.

“My constituents are increasingly concerned that the Japanese are dragging their feet on this decision. I expressed, in the strongest terms, how important reopening their market to American beef is,” Senator Allard said. “I am afraid that unnecessary delay will serve to increase tensions between the world’s two largest economies. It is my hope this can be avoided.”

“Nearly 300,000 head of cattle in the United States have been tested for BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) and all have tested negative,” the Senator said. “It is unfortunate that a single case of BSE, of Canadian origin, has closed an entire market to America’s agriculture industry.”