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Don Nisbet <donn@mariani.com.au> 22/02/2010 01:19 PM

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cc Christine Gibbs Stewart <chrisgs@mariani.com.au>

bcc

Subject Submission to the Australia-Korea FTA negotiations: Beef

Jerky [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

ODIN Topic: TRADE

TRIM File Ref: 09/766

Dear FTA Taskforce,

Mariani Foods Pty Ltd is a manufacturer and exporter of beef jerky located in Casino, NSW. We have been producing and exporting our beef jerky for over 30 years, with our largest export market being Japan.

We have been trying to export into the Korean market for many years, but the current tariff rate makes it prohibitive.

Our beef jerky is normally classified for importation purposes under HC 16029090. In looking at the Korean tariff schedules, our product would go in under 16021000 - other prepared or preserved meat, meat offal or blood. The tariff rate is 72%!

The Korean market represents a large opportunity for us and we estimate would generate several million dollars annually in export revenue. Breaking into this market would enable us to grow our business and employ more people in regional Australia.

In your negotiations we ask that you try and seek a reduction in this tariff rate so we can export our products to Korea competitively.

Kind Regards

Don Nisbet

Managing Director Mariani Foods Pty Ltd

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