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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 23, 2009**  
Arlington, Virginia, U.S.A.

**THE US-TAIWAN BUSINESS COUNCIL WELCOMES IMPROVED TAIWAN  
MARKET ACCESS FOR U.S. BEEF,  
CALLS FOR RESUMPTION OF TIFA TALKS**

The US-Taiwan Business Council today welcomed statements from the U.S. and Taiwan governments, announcing that that the long-stalled issue of Taiwan market access for U.S. bone-in beef has now been resolved and that imports in this category will recommence.

The issue of U.S. access to Taiwan's beef market has long been front and center in the U.S.-Taiwan trade relationship, and lay at the heart of the decision to freeze the long-standing Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) talks several years ago - bringing almost all significant U.S.-Taiwan economic dialogue to a halt. Taiwan estimates that the market for the re-opened category will exceed US\$60 million per year. That adds approximately 0.1% to overall bilateral trade.

Now that the beef issue has been resolved, the Council urges the governments of Taiwan and the United States to resume TIFA talks at their earliest possible convenience. The Council will work closely with the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei and the office of the United States Trade Representative to highlight areas of interest for discussion and possible liberalization.

The coming Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) between Taiwan and China heralds a new phase of bilateral economic relations. The Council supports this engagement, the improved economic dialogue, and the related reduction in tensions. In addition, the open and free movement of goods, services, and people between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait has an important and positive impact on the economic welfare of almost every U.S. company vested in the triangular economic relationship between the U.S., Taiwan, and China.

However, the U.S. will need to focus its efforts on shaping the appropriate response to ECFA. The Council will work to ensure that our member companies' interests in Taiwan are safeguarded, and we will actively support a U.S.-driven liberalization agenda that promotes both America's importance in the market and its importance as an existing global partner to many of Taiwan's leading companies.

**About the US-Taiwan Business Council:**

The US-Taiwan Business Council ([www.us-taiwan.org](http://www.us-taiwan.org)) is a membership-based non-profit association, founded in 1976 to foster trade and business relations between the United States and Taiwan. The Council provides its members with business intelligence, offers access to an extensive network of relationships, and serves as a vital and effective representative in dealing with business, trade, and investment matters.

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