



January 25, 2013

His Excellency Kenichiro Sasae
Ambassador
Embassy of Japan
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ambassador Sasae:

Thank you for your letter of today's date and your confirmation of the Government of Japan's intention to implement the paragraphs of the attached document "Requirements for Beef and Beef Products to be Exported to Japan from the United States of America" ("Requirements"), dated January 25, 2013, that was recently completed as a result of consultations between the representatives of the two Governments. We hereby also confirm the Government of the United States will implement the paragraphs of the "Requirements."

It is our Government's view that the attached Requirements reflect our mutual understanding of the respective measures that each Government is to take, beginning as of February 1, 2013, as indicated in the Requirements.

We appreciate your confirmation of the risk assessment request made to the Japan Food Safety Commission with respect to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The Government of the United States continues to attach great importance to this process and its outcomes, particularly in view of international standards, including the classifications and recommendations of the World Organization of Animal Health with respect to BSE. Further, the Government of the United States also attaches great importance to the principle of non-discrimination and to ensuring commercially viable bilateral trade in beef and beef products.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Kirk".

Ambassador Ron Kirk
United States Trade Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Vilsack".

Thomas Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture