



*Ambassador of Japan
Washington, D. C.*

Embassy of Japan
Washington, D.C.

January 25, 2013

Dear Ambassador Kirk and Secretary Vilsack:

I have the honor to convey to you that my Government will 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.

It is my 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.

I further wish to inform you that the Government of Japan requested on December 19, 2011, that the Japan Food Safety Commission (FSC) conduct a risk assessment related to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), which includes consideration of a further raising the age of cattle from which beef and beef products are derived that can be imported into Japan, including for those products imported from the United States, taking into account international standards. The Government of Japan will continue to provide updates to your Government on the status of the deliberations by the Japan FSC.

I look forward to the ongoing cooperation of the two governments with respect to this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Kenichiro Sasae
Ambassador of Japan

The Honorable
Ronald Kirk
United States Trade Representative
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable
Thomas Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.