



For Immediate Release

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Statement by Ken Hobbie, U.S. Grains Council President and CEO, Pertaining to Senate Approval of U.S., Peru Free Trade Agreement

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 4, 2007 – “The U.S. Grains Council is certainly pleased with the Senate’s approval of the free trade agreement with Peru today. When all is said and done, an increase of roughly \$705 million annually in agricultural trade will be realized. Upon full implementation, all U.S. agricultural exports, including barley, corn, sorghum and distiller’s dried grains with solubles will enter Peru duty-free. Previously, all agricultural exports face an average tariff of 18 percent. It’s a definite win for U.S. producers.

“The Council applauds our members who have been instrumental in educating and rallying support in Washington, D.C. for free trade agreements that benefit U.S. farmers and our trade partners, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, National Barley Growers Association, National Corn Growers Association and National Sorghum Producers. Without trade organizations looking out for the best interests of U.S. agriculture, the Council’s ability to develop markets and enable trade across the globe would be drastically reduced.

“This agreement is essential to expanding trade opportunities for U.S. feed grain exports to the region. And with the passage of free trade agreements with Colombia and Panama currently awaiting approval, the U.S. ultimately will broaden market access for U.S. feed grains to over two-thirds of the population in the Western Hemisphere. U.S. feed grains win in a free trade environment and we are pleased with this step in the right direction,” concluded Ken Hobbie, USGC president and CEO.

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The U.S. Grains Council is a private, non-profit partnership of farmers and agribusinesses committed to building and expanding international markets for U.S. barley, corn, grain sorghum and their products. The Council is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and has 10 international offices that oversee programs in more than 50 countries. Financial support from our private industry members, including state checkoffs, agribusinesses, state entities and others, triggers federal matching funds from the USDA resulting in a combined program value of more than \$25 million.

The U.S. Grains Council does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital/family status. Persons with disabilities, who require alternative means for communication of program information, should contact the U.S. Grains Council.