



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

<http://finance.senate.gov>

MEMORANDUM

To: Reporters and Editors
Re: Signing of U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement
Da: Thursday, Jan. 19, 2006

Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Committee on Finance, with jurisdiction over international trade, today welcomed the signing of the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement. This agreement was signed by U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman and Oman's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Maqbool bin Ali Sultan. Grassley made the following comment on the signing.

"This agreement is positive for the United States. It will give new market access opportunities to American farmers, manufacturers, and service providers, including those in Iowa.

"Maybe most important, the U.S.-Oman agreement marks yet another major step in fulfilling the President's goal of completing a Middle East Free Trade Area by 2013. A comprehensive free trade area in the Middle East would create significantly improved market opportunities for U.S. exporters in a part of the world with a fast-growing population. It also would cement ties between our nations and would help build increased economic opportunity and respect for the rule of law in the region. I look forward to working with the President to achieve this goal."