



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

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Grassley Sets Date for Committee Hearing on
the United States-Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement

WASHINGTON — Sen. Chuck Grassley, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, today announced plans for a full committee hearing on the United States-Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

Today's hearing announcement follows action by Guatemala last week to become the third country, along with El Salvador and Honduras, to pass legislation implementing CAFTA.

"I'm extremely pleased to see that the Guatemalan congress passed legislation last week to implement CAFTA," Grassley said. "CAFTA is the foundation of our relationship with the Dominican Republic and Central America. It's an important agreement that will provide significant benefits to U.S. farmers, manufacturers and service workers. I believe the U.S. Congress needs to turn our attention to this important agreement soon. As a first step, I intend to hold a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee when we return from the Spring recess. CAFTA is an important part of the Finance Committee's trade agenda. It deserves the early attention of the Senate."

Grassley said the hearing would occur on Wed., April 6, at 10 am. A date for informal committee consideration of the implementing legislation by the Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over international trade, has not been set.

Central America and the Dominican Republic make up the second-largest U.S. export market in Latin America, behind Mexico and larger than Brazil.