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**Contact: Thomas A. Hammer
David J. Hovermale
202.842.0463**

NOPA OPPOSES RULES CHANGE ON CONSIDERING TRADE AGREEMENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 10, 2008—By changing the rules and removing the 90-day timetable for considering trade agreements, House leadership is undermining the credibility of the United States with its trading partners.

NOPA President Thomas Hammer “urges members of the House of Representatives to preserve the 90-day timetable for considering trade agreements and to approve the U.S.–Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement.”

Currently, no U.S. agricultural exports enjoy duty-free access to Colombia. In contrast, over 99.9 percent of Colombia’s current exports already receive duty-free treatment into the U.S. market.

NOPA strongly support the U.S.–Colombia TPA, which will provide U.S. processors, farmers and livestock producers not only with the opportunity to preserve but to increase market share of U.S. oilseed and meat products.

NOPA, established in 1929, represents the U.S. soybean, sunflower, canola, flaxseed and safflower seed-crushing industries. Its activities focus on the enhancing the competitiveness and profitability of the U.S. oilseed processing industry. NOPA is comprised of 14 member companies who process over 1.6 billion bushels of oilseeds annually at 65 plants in 20 states.

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