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AFFI Applauds Congress for COOL Repeal

McLean, VA – The [American Frozen Food Institute](http://www.affi.org) (AFFI) today commended Congress for approving legislation, as part of a \$1.1 trillion spending package, which will suspend country-of-origin labeling (COOL) for certain muscle cuts of meat and avoid costly trade retaliation by Canada and Mexico.

The U.S. Senate today approved the measure by a vote of 65-33, following the bill's passage in the U.S. House of Representatives earlier today by a vote of 316-113.

"AFFI commends Congress for passing legislation that fully repeals country-of-origin labeling for certain meat and poultry cuts, and protecting U.S. frozen food and beverage makers from costly retaliatory tariffs from America's two largest export markets," said AFFI Interim President Joseph Clayton.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) recently approved annual retaliatory tariff amounts of \$1.01 billion, \$781 million from Canada and \$227.76 million from Mexico, which could have been imposed on U.S. exports if COOL was not repealed. The approved tariff amounts follow a May 2015 WTO ruling that found COOL requirements to be in violation of the United States' international trade obligations by treating Canadian and Mexican livestock less favorably than domestic livestock.

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The American Frozen Food Institute is the national trade association promoting and representing the interests of all segments of the frozen food and beverage industry. AFFI works to foster industry development and growth, and advocates before legislative and regulatory entities on the industry's behalf. More information can be found at www.affi.org.