



United States Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2005

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SEN. LANDRIEU TESTIFIES ON POTENTIAL IMPACT OF CAFTA

WASHINGTON – Senator Mary Landrieu, D-La., submitted written testimony today to a Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee hearing on the potential impacts of the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) on the agriculture and food sectors.

“The administration’s economists say that CAFTA will increase our trade deficit with Central America while boosting our own economy by less than 0.01 percent.”

According to estimates by the U.S. International Trade Commission, CAFTA would have “a negligible impact on total U.S. production and employment,” she added.

CAFTA does, however, stand to have a large, direct negative impact on Louisiana’s sugar industry. With the current CAFTA proposal, Louisiana stands to lose \$750 million per year in direct sugar sales, and \$2 billion in industry-related revenue.

“Today, we’re talking about dealing the sugar industry a death blow. We’re talking about undoing centuries of tradition and stripping away jobs from efficient Louisiana sugar farmers,” said Sen. Landrieu. “That is why I am urging my colleagues to vote against CAFTA in its current form if it comes to the Senate floor.”

CAFTA is currently being debated in the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee.