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NOPA APPLAUDS THE U.S. TRADE NEGOTIATING TEAM

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 30, 2008 – The National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA) regrets that the trade ministers were unable to reach agreement on the seven-year-long Doha trade negotiations. NOPA applauds Ambassador Schwab and the entire U.S. negotiating team for their tireless efforts to achieve an ambitious trade agreement.

NOPA President Tom Hammer said that “it took real courage by our negotiators to recognize when to walk away.” Some of the demands from our trading partners would have taken the global trading system in a reverse direction from gains achieved in the Uruguay Round. Hammer also stated that “apparently, certain key countries were not ready to join the United States in providing the needed leadership to achieve a balanced and ambitious result.”

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the essential cornerstone of a rules-based trading system. Therefore, these critical negotiations cannot be allowed to falter. While real progress was made during the past week, it fell short. Hammer believes that, after a brief period of reflection, key trading block nations, such as India, China and Brazil, should join the United States to find a path forward to achieve a balanced and ambitious Doha trade agreement.

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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