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## MEDIA STATEMENT

### HON JIM SUTTON RETIRES

Meat Industry Association Media Statement

Prime Minister Helen Clark today announced the retirement from politics of long-serving Labour Minister and MP Jim Sutton, effective as of the end of this month. Sutton is currently Minister of State and Associate Minister for Trade Negotiations.

Sutton has held a variety of ministerial portfolios, the most prominent being Trade and Agriculture. The Meat Industry Association (MIA) welcomes the news that on his retirement, Mr Sutton will take up the formal position of Trade Ambassador for New Zealand and as Chairman of Landcorp.

Chairman of the MIA, Bill Falconer said "Jim Sutton's appointment as Trade Ambassador for New Zealand is an excellent use of his skills and experience and will keep him involved in an area where he has been a key player. Jim has made huge contributions to the primary industries of this country in all his portfolios, and we are delighted that he will be continuing in the trade sector where he is well known and respected, at a time when there are considerable challenges in both the bilateral and multilateral arenas."

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Contact for further information

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