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## **Vietnam takes USDA catfish program to WTO**

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Vietnam has taken the first step in the WTO litigation process by officially requesting bilateral consultations with the United States in regard to the USDA catfish program.

For nearly a decade, experts in international trade have warned that U.S. farm exports would bear the brunt of retaliatory tariffs in the wake of a WTO case.

“[the fight over the program has] raised the prospect that Vietnam could bar American beef in retaliation.” –Wall Street Journal Editorial 06.21.12

“No wonder this [program] has American exporters worried about retaliation... the Vietnamese could block imports of U.S. beef in response, and producers of soy products also have reason to be nervous.”– Wall Street Journal Editorial 02.22.11

“Catfish-exporting countries are likely to retaliate by imposing barriers on U.S. exports, hurting many successful U.S. businesses.” –Sherzod Abdukadirov, Research Fellow at the Mercatus Center 08.16.12

“The WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary... long championed by the United States as a way to prevent unjustified foreign trade barriers—are designed to prevent exactly the sort of protectionist shenanigans at play in the catfish inspection regulation.” - K. William Watson, Cato Institute 03.29.16