

April 18, 2005

BY FACSIMILE

TO MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE:

We urge you and your colleagues to confirm U.S. Representative Robert Portman as United States Trade Representative without delay.

As you know, upcoming trade votes and ongoing trade negotiations are making this year one of the busiest ever for the U.S. trade agenda. Pending votes on CAFTA-DR and the U.S.-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement; possible votes on continued participation in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and renewal of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA); ongoing multilateral negotiations in the WTO; regional negotiations under the FTAA; and bilateral FTA negotiations with Thailand, Panama, the Andean Countries, the United Arab Emirates and other countries require strong leadership at USTR.

As representatives of virtually every sector of the U.S. economy, we would like to express our great appreciation for Ambassador Allgeier's many contributions as Acting U.S. Trade Representative. Now that Representative Portman has been formally nominated to be U.S. Trade Representative, it is essential for the Senate to act quickly on his nomination to signal to our trading partners that this critical agency has the clear mandate to tackle these and other important international trade and investment issues. Representative Portman is the right person for the job. During his six terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, he has distinguished himself as a thoughtful and respected leader on international trade and investment issues. Moreover, he has demonstrated a spirit of bipartisan cooperation that will be essential in the months ahead as Congress considers the many trade issues on its agenda.

Since the end of World War II, liberalized trade and investment policies have led to growth and prosperity for American business, farmers and workers, and have helped promote economic and political stability internationally. The United States has been extremely fortunate to have strong leadership at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, through Democratic and Republican Administrations alike. Continuing this tradition is essential. Representative Robert Portman will provide the leadership that is needed for the job, and he is needed now. We urge you to support his quick confirmation, and to move it forward without delay.

Sincerely,

ABB Inc.
3M
Abbott
Accenture
ACE INA
AdvaMed
Aeropost International Services, Inc.
Aerospace Industries Association
Alcoa
Alticor, Inc.
Altria Group, Inc.
American Apparel & Footwear Association

American Bankers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Express Company
American Feed Industry Association
American Forest & Paper Association
American Insurance Association
American Petroleum Institute
American Wire Producers Association (AWPA)
Amgen Inc.
AMT - The Association for Manufacturing Technology
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
ATSC Forum
Automotive Trade Policy Council
Bankers' Association for Finance and Trade
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
Business Council for International Understanding
Business Roundtable
California Chamber of Commerce
Cargill, Incorporated
Caribbean Central American Action (CCAA)
Case New Holland
Caterpillar
Cendant Corporation
ChevronTexaco
Cinergy
Cisco Systems, Inc.
Citigroup
Coalition for Employment Through Exports
Coalition of Services Industries
Computer Sciences Corporation
Consumers for World Trade
Convergys Corporation
Cooper Tire & Rubber Company
Corn Refiners Association
CropLife America
Corning Incorporated
DaimlerChrysler Corporation
Dana Corporation
Deere & Company
Delphi Corporation
Diageo North America
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
Duke Energy
DuPont
Eaton Corporation
Eastman Chemical Company
Eastman Kodak Company
EDS
Electronic Industries Alliance

Eli Lilly and Company
Embraer Aircraft Holding, Inc.
Emergency Committee for American Trade
Express Delivery & Logistics Association (XLA)
FedEx Corporation
Fluor Corporation
FMC Corporation
Food Marketing Institute
Ford Motor Company
FPL Group
Georgia-Pacific Corporation
General Electric
General Mills
General Motors Corporation
Goodrich Corporation
Greater America Business Coalition
HCA - Hospital Corporation of America
Hewlett-Packard
Hogan Associates International
Honeywell
HSBC North America
Humana Inc.
IBM Corporation
Information Technology Association of America
Information Technology Industry Council
International Association of Drilling Contractors
International Electronics Manufacturers and Consumers Association
International Freight Forwarders & Customs Brokers Association of New Orleans
International Paper Company
International Trade Services Corporation
ITT Industries, Inc.
J.C. Penney Purchasing Corp.
Kellwood Company
KTH Parts Industries, Inc.
Lasa Monroig & Veve, LLP
Lincoln Electric Holdings, Inc.
Liz Claiborne Inc.
Maersk Inc.
Manchester Trade Ltd.
MeadWestvaco Corporation
Medco
Merck & Co., Inc.
MetLife
Miami Valley Marketing Group, Inc.
Motion Picture Association of America, Inc.
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
Motorola
National Association of Manufacturers
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council

National Corn Growers Association
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
National Foreign Trade Council
National Grain and Feed Association
National Gypsum Company
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Renderers Association
NCR Corp.
New York Life Insurance Company
Nortel
North American Export Grain Association
Office Depot, Inc.
Ohio Alliance for International Trade
Oracle
Peregrine Systems
Pet Food Institute
Pfizer Inc
Plumbing Manufacturers Institute
Principal Financial Group
Procter & Gamble
QUALCOMM Inc.
Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA)
Riverdale Mills Corporation
Robbins & Myers, Inc.
Rockwell Automation
Sara Lee Branded Apparel
SAS
Seaboard Corporation
Seaboard Marine, LTD
Securities Industry Association
Semiconductor Industry Association
Service Tool and Die Two
Southern Ohio District Export Council
Steel Hector & Davis, LLP
Sony Corporation of America
Sun Microsystems, Inc.
Sybase
Telecommunications Industry Association
Texas Instruments
The Boeing Company
The Chubb Corporation
The Coca-Cola Company
The Direct Selling Association
The Fertilizer Institute
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
The Grocery Manufacturers of America
The Irwin Brown Company
The McGraw-Hill Companies

The Sherwin-Williams Company
The St. Paul Travelers Companies, Inc.
The Washington Center
Time Warner Inc.
Transportation Services Inc.
Travel Goods Association (TGA)
Tyco International
Tyson Foods, Inc.
UPS
U.S. Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. - China Business Council
U.S. Council for International Business
U.S. - Mexico Chamber of Commerce
United Fresh International
United States Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel
United States Council for International Business
United States Dry Bean Council
United Technologies Corporation
VISA USA
Western & Southern Financial Group
Weyerhaeuser Company
Wheat Export Trade Education Committee
Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America
World Trade Club of Greater New Orleans
Wyeth
Xerox Corporation