

June 23, 2010

The Honorable Ron Kirk
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Ambassador Kirk and Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of a broad coalition of U.S. businesses, workers, farmers and ranchers, we thank you for your efforts to engage Brazil in a dialogue that resulted in the June 17 announcement of a framework agreement that successfully averted Brazilian trade retaliation related to the WTO cotton dispute for the immediate future. We look forward to working with you and the U.S. Congress to secure a definitive resolution of this dispute.

As you know, Brazilian countermeasures against U.S. exports and intellectual property rights would jeopardize tens of thousands of American jobs. U.S. companies are striving to propel the U.S. economy out of recession, and the Brazilian market's vast opportunities are critical to these efforts. Brazilian retaliation could significantly damage bilateral relations and cost U.S. workers, farmers, and businesses opportunities far beyond those enjoyed by those who sell the products on Brazil's retaliation list.

We understand that much work remains to be done to ensure that a permanent solution to the dispute is reached. The risk of harm to U.S. trade remains. We urge you to continue engaging Brazil in a dialogue aimed at achieving the intermediary benchmarks established by the framework agreement and to work with the U.S. Congress to facilitate the appropriate modifications to U.S. agricultural programs in the next farm bill.

We appreciate your efforts, and we are fully prepared to assist you as you work with Brazil and the U.S. Congress to place this dispute behind us and to seize the vast potential of the U.S.-Brazil commercial relationship.

Sincerely,

Advanced Medical Technology Association
American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Automotive Policy Council
American Chamber of Commerce - Brazil
Brazil-U.S. Business Council
Council of the Americas
CropLife America
Information Technology Industry Council
Intellectual Property Owners Association
Medical Imaging Technology Alliance

Motion Picture Association of America
National Association of Manufacturers
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
National Foreign Trade Council
National Marine Manufacturers Association
Personal Care Products Council
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America
Recording Industry Association of America
Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc.
Telecommunications Industry Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Wheat Associates

cc: Miriam Sapiro, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

James Miller, Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, United States Department of Agriculture