

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

MAY 17 2005

Ms. Laurie Alpert
Division Director, International Trade
Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade
1625 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Alpert:

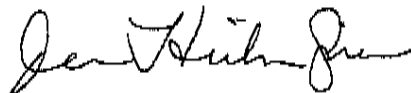
Thank you for your letter regarding Colorado's willingness to cover its state procurement in the free trade agreements that we are negotiating with Panama and the Andean countries of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Such commitments improve our ability to persuade these countries to open their sub-central procurement markets to U.S. suppliers, thus creating new opportunities for Colorado companies and workers.

As you may know, Ambassador Zoellick is now the Deputy Secretary of State, and the President has selected former Ohio Congressman, Rob Portman, to be the new United States Trade Representative. Under Ambassador Portman's leadership, we will continue to work closely with the states.

We will keep you apprised of developments as the negotiations of the trade agreements proceed. In you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 395-9476 or email jean_grier@ustr.eop.gov.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,



Jean Heilman Grier
Senior Procurement Negotiator