



JEB BUSH  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

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December 22, 2004

The Honorable Robert B. Zoellick  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Zoellick:

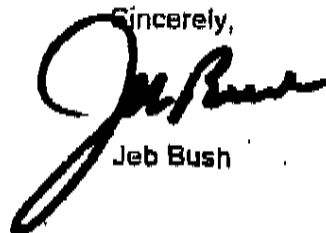
On behalf of the State of Florida, thank you for your recent letter regarding the expansion of Florida's state government procurement services to those nations with which the United States is currently negotiating a free trade agreement.

Committed to providing better services to Florida's citizens, we have strived over the past six years to not only expand and diversify the pool of businesses qualified to compete for procurement opportunities in our state, but also to find innovative ways to do so. We are proud that the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has been one of our strongest partners in achieving this goal.

As a result, we are pleased to once again join the USTR in opening Florida procurement services to the Republic of Panama, and the Andean nations of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. These countries are not only some of Florida's most important trading partners, but they are also among the most dynamic members of the Hemisphere's growing free trade community.

The benefits of free trade cannot be limited to increases in the flow of goods and merchandise through the ports and seaports of the Americas; for it to be truly successful, free trade needs to have an impact on people's everyday lives. We are committed to doing this by engaging our partners in Florida's procurement initiatives. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jesse Manzano in my Office of International Affairs at (305) 476-4840.

Sincerely,



Jeb Bush



Governor's Mentoring Initiative  
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