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Purchasing Administrator

March 24, 2005

Executive Office Of The President
The United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508
Attn: Mr. Rob Portman

FAX Delivery: (202) 395-5674

Dear Mr. Portman:

Please allow me to extend sincere congratulations on your recent appointment to this very important position. On behalf of the State of Nevada, we extend our best wishes for your success.

Please consider this letter as the State of Nevada's official response to your letter, dated February 1, 2005, regarding our participation in the two new Free Trade Agreements with Panama and the Andean countries. Unfortunately, our response to your request is not positive. After significant research and discussion, Nevada declines to participate. We will, however, continue our open dialog with your office through your representative, Ms. Jean Heilman Grier, who has been extremely helpful in several recent discussions.

As an At-Large Director with the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO), I assure you this topic remains of the utmost interest and concern nationwide and Nevada is no exception.

If you have further questions please feel free to contact me at (775) 684-0184.

Respectfully,

Greg Smith
Greg Smith, Administrator

State of Nevada, Department of Administration
Division of Purchasing
515 E. Musser St.
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cc: Michael D. Hillerby, Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor

Please visit our website at <http://purchasing.state.nv.us>