



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
HARRISBURG

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

January 18, 1996

Mr. Michael Kantor
The United States Trade Representative
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Kantor:

Governor Ridge has asked me to respond to your letter updating us on the World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) activities.

As one of 37 states included in U.S. coverage under the GPA, Pennsylvania welcomes the opportunity to benefit from an open trade policy that may enhance our already competitive industries, like the high-technology sector. Because international trade pacts like GPA bind state law as well as federal, they can have considerable and complicated effects on individual states' economic autonomy. Therefore, the Department of Commerce looks forward to meeting with Ms. Phyllis Shearer Jones to discuss the documentation and processes involved with the GPA implementation issues.

Pennsylvania supports federal strategies that encourage open international trade, and as such will actively participate in efforts to develop a more cooperative state-federal relationship on world trade. Thank you for involving us in your global trade efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Hagen".

Thomas B. Hagen
Secretary of Commerce