



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

May 11, 2004

Ambassador Robert B. Zoellick
The United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Zoellick:

The State of Pennsylvania is suffering severe job losses due to increasing overseas outsourcing by U.S. firms. These firms are increasing their global competitiveness by taking advantage of unfair labor and trade practices that make it difficult to justify operating manufacturing or service facilities in the United States.

For forty-four consecutive months Pennsylvania has suffered job losses in the manufacturing sectors. In fact the only sectors with positive job growth in the last year have been our health and education sectors -- sectors that cannot, for the most part, deliver services by outsourcing their operations overseas.

I was elected by the residents of this Commonwealth to ensure the prosperity and stability of Pennsylvania. I cannot live up to this promise without taking action to ensure that Pennsylvanians have a fair shot at remaining employed and that companies based in our state can compete in an increasingly unfair international trade system.

As such, by sending you this letter, I am rescinding my agreement of January 27, 2004 to offer -- via the trade agreements you are currently negotiating with African and Central American nations -- access to the Pennsylvania procurement market.

I believe that your offices can ensure the expansion of free trade by actively seeking compliance the trade agreements already in place under the aegis of the World Trade Organization. We stand ready to engage in future trade agreements when we are certain that such trade agreements ensure a level playing field for our domestic employers and workers.

Sincerely,

Edward G. Rendell
Edward G. Rendell

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