



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
M. MICHAEL ROUNDS, GOVERNOR

October 27, 2003

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

Dear Ambassador Zoellick:

Thank you for writing regarding South Dakota's interest in applying its current government procurement practices to additional trading partners.

Inasmuch as the state of South Dakota agreed to this practice in 1996 for the members of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA), and inasmuch as South Dakota has not revised its procurement procedures since that time, the state of South Dakota authorizes the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to offer access to the South Dakota state government procurement market in new trade agreements that USTR is currently negotiating. These include trade agreements with Morocco, Australia, the countries of the Central American Common Market (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua), the South African Customs Union (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland), and the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas. South Dakota will undertake the same commitments with regard to these new agreements that it has already undertaken under the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement.

This permission is given based on the qualification that no changes be made to South Dakota's current government procedure practices.

Thank you again for writing and extending this offer to South Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Michael Rounds".

M. Michael Rounds

MMR:ls