

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

MAY 17 2005

Chris Meister  
Director of Legislative Affairs/Associate General Counsel  
Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity  
620 East Adams Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1615

Dear Mr. Meister:

Thank you for your letter to Ambassador Zoellick regarding Illinois's willingness to cover its state procurement in the free trade agreements we are negotiating with Panama and the Andean countries of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Such commitments improve our ability to persuade these countries to open their sub-central procurement markets to U.S. suppliers, thus creating new opportunities for Illinois companies and workers.

As you may know, Ambassador Zoellick is now the Deputy Secretary of State, and the President has selected former Ohio Congressman, Rob Portman, to be the new United States Trade Representative. Under Ambassador Portman's leadership, we will continue to work closely with the states.

We will keep you apprised of developments as the negotiations of our trade agreements proceed. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Heilman Grier, Senior Procurement Negotiator, at (202) 395-9476 or email [jean\\_grier@ustr.eop.gov](mailto:jean_grier@ustr.eop.gov).

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Dwoskin  
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative  
for WTO and Multilateral Affairs