



TOMMY G. THOMPSON

Governor
State of Wisconsin

June 17, 1992

The Honorable Carla A. Hillis
United States Trade Representative
600 - 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Hillis:

I have carefully reviewed your proposal to include state government procurements under the Government Procurement Code on a voluntary basis. On behalf of the State of Wisconsin, I would like to formally commit the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) to be included under the Code. We do have some concerns related to a number of administrative requirements such as the lengthy period for tendering bids, the challenge of provisions requiring court participation, and the difficult reporting requirements. I understand you are working with the National Association of State Purchasing Officials on those issues. Resolution of those concerns will enable us to fully and more easily comply with all provisions of the Code. We are happy to assist your office with these issues.

While the Department of Administration spent \$25 million in FY '91 in procurements, or only 5 percent of the State total, it has oversight authority for all state purchases. Therefore, a commitment from DOA is equivalent to a commitment for 100 percent participation from state agencies and the University of Wisconsin System campuses. It would not, however, include construction contracts or highway development, since they are not considered procurements under state statutes.

The State of Wisconsin currently adheres to open, competitive, and non-discriminatory procurement principles. Furthermore, we will take whatever future steps necessary to ensure compliance with the Code, subject to resolution of the issues noted above. Indeed, I am delighted at the prospect of more open procurement worldwide. You are to be commended for your fine efforts in this area.

Sincerely,


TOMMY G. THOMPSON
Governor

cc: Secretary James R. Klausner
Department of Administration