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March 23, 2005

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

Dear Ambassador Zoellick:

The State of Illinois has been included in the United States coverage under the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) since 1996. The addition of covering State government procurements in the GPA enhanced access to foreign government procurement markets for Illinois manufacturers and suppliers.

The State of Illinois authorizes the United States Trade Representative to offer access to the Illinois State government procurement market in the new trade agreements being negotiated with Panama and the Andean countries of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. Illinois will undertake the same commitments with regard to this new agreement that it has already undertaken under the GPA since 1996.

The State of Illinois values Panama, Columbia, Ecuador and Peru as trading partners and that inclusion in the GPA will further enhance increased trade and create new jobs for Illinois workers.

Sincerely,

Chris Meister
Director of Legislative Affairs/
Associate General Counsel

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