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Ambassador Michael Kantor
United States Trade Representative
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Kantor:

The State of Oregon is pleased to join your efforts to conclude the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations by committing to cover our procurement process under the code. Currently, Oregon does not discriminate against out-of-state suppliers for any state purchasing contracts except on a reciprocal basis. This appears to meet the intent of the code agreement. The only state-specific exception to the open bidding process is a law that requires Qualified Rehabilitation Facilities to be awarded bids if they can provide the goods and services at a competitive price.

In Oregon, state law requires its Department of Administrative Services to oversee all procurements for amounts exceeding \$25,000 with three exceptions: The Governor's Office, the Secretary of State's Office and the State Lottery Office. However, as a practical matter, most large purchases by these offices are also handled by the Department of Administrative Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important aspect of the GATT negotiations. As one of the few states with a trade surplus, Oregon recognizes the need to remain competitive and open new markets for our goods and services. We look forward to working with your office to maintain and expand our export opportunities.

Sincerely,

Barbara Roberts
Governor