



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

May 10, 2004

The Honorable Robert B. Zoellick
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Zoellick:

I am pleased to inform you that the State of Rhode Island grants your request for permission to extend to those new countries with which the United States is currently negotiating, the same non-discriminatory protections and procedural disciplines that are already offered by Rhode Island to the twenty-seven other Members of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA). In accepting coverage for all of the countries with which the United States is currently negotiating, it is understood that Rhode Island's coverage in each new agreement will be offered only if meaningful access to each new market is provided.

Rhode Island's initial acceptance of the predecessor General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Government Procurement Code by then Governor Bruce Sundlun in December 1993 stipulates acceptance of coverage under the following conditions which remain in effect:

- Thresholds per contract of 355,000 SDRs for commodities and services and 5 million SDRs for construction (currently valued at \$460,000 and \$6.81 million respectively).
- Procurement contract awards are made in favor of Rhode Island's companies in event of tie bids.
- Companies receiving procurement contract awards be required to comply with Rhode Island law and regulations.
- Procurement of printing services, boats, automobiles, buses, and related equipment is exempted.
- The preference policy for Certified Minority Business firms and the preference policy for firms located in Rhode Island Enterprise Zones are exempted.

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I wish you great success in negotiating beneficial agreements which may open new markets for Rhode Island firms and serve to bolster Rhode Island's and other states' economies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald L. Carcieri", written over a horizontal line.

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor