



K A N S A S

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

May 18, 2004

Honorable Robert Zoellick
United States Trade Representative
Winder Building, Room 209A
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Ambassador Zoellick:

I am writing to clarify the State of Kansas position on the inclusion of our state in the ongoing discussions that your office is having with the countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, in what is known as the U.S.-Central America Free Trade Agreement.

In my May 7 letter to your office, I discussed the concerns that we have in keeping and creating goods jobs for Kansans. I also stated that we believe fair trade is essential to our economic well-being. My commitment to expanding the economy of Kansas through strong programs that promote international trade to grow our job base will not waiver. I fully support the efforts put forth in my International Trade Division to find new and expanding trade opportunities for Kansas companies.

However, after deliberate and careful discussions with my Commerce staff, I have decided that it is in the best interest of Kansas not to participate in the procurement rules that will be set out in the current negotiations of the Central America Free Trade Agreement. This will enable Kansas to better control our options as we look to grow our economy.

As your office continues to negotiate other trade agreements around the world, please contact us again, as we will view each agreement on its own unique merits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Sebelius".

Kathleen Sebelius
Governor of the State of Kansas

KS/JA/pl