

May 18, 2004

Ambassador Robert B. Zoellick  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17th St., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Zoellick:

I write to amend my December 22, 2003, correspondence to you regarding access to state government procurement in new trade agreements.

Through today's correspondence I withdraw Maine's previously granted broad authorization of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to offer access to State of Maine government procurement in new trade agreements that USTR is currently negotiating. As the details of future trade agreements are developed and approach finalization, Maine looks forward to working with your office to review options for access to Maine state government procurement on an agreement-by-agreement or case-by-case basis.

Maine requests that Maine's broad grants of authority be replaced with case-by-case review of the following trade agreements: Morocco, the countries of the Central American Common Market, the South African Customs Union, and the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas. Maine does not request to withdraw access to State of Maine procurement contained in existing or imminent trade agreements, including agreements with Australia.

The State of Maine economy benefits from healthy trade with key trading partners. We look forward to continued growth of international business activity in Maine. At the same time we look forward to working with you to advance labor and environmental protections in Maine and around the world. We believe that carefully negotiated trade agreements can benefit all parties.

Please feel free to contact Alan Stearns from my office with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

/s/

John E. Baldacci