

September 13, 2006

Delivery by Email: fr0625@ustr.eop.gov

Ms. Barbara Weisel
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative
Office of Southeast Asia and the Pacific and Pharmaceutical Policy
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

RE: Acceleration in Duty Reduction Under USSFTA

Dear Ms. Weisel:

On behalf of The Dow Chemical Company, we greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed acceleration of tariff liberalization under the current U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Similar to our original comments during the FTA negotiations, we continue to strongly advocate for the full 10-year phase out of polycarbonate tariffs.

The Dow Chemical Company is a major producer of polycarbonate resin here in the United States. Dow manufactures polycarbonate at our Freeport, TX operations center. Texas Operations is an integrated chemical manufacturing facility with the ability to manufacture 165,000,000 pounds of polycarbonate annually. The Company employs over 5,000 people in Freeport, in addition to over 3000 contractors providing regular services to the plant. Dow has sustained production in Freeport since 1941.

Increased phase-out of tariffs relative to Singapore's polycarbonate production would have an adverse impact on sustaining our U.S.-based production. As you know, American manufacturing faces substantial challenges in the current economic environment – ranging from high energy costs to regulatory burdens and others. Our competitors, however, benefit from lower labor costs as well as the competitive advantage of newer production facilities.

We would urge you to maintain the on-going tariff reduction schedule, based on the 10 year phase out, in order to allow sufficient time for our production facilities to ensure their competitiveness.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Walker
Vice President and Site Director, Texas Operations
The Dow Chemical Company
2301 N. Brazosport Blvd
Freeport, Tx 77541 (979-238-1778)