

November 15, 2005

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Portman:

Pursuant to Section 2104 (e) of the Trade Act of 2002 and Section 135 (e) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, I am pleased to transmit the report of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) for Trade in Animals and Animal Products on the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement reflecting consensus on the proposed Agreement.

Sincerely,

John J. Reddington

Chair
Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee
on Trade in Animals and Animal Products

The U.S. – Oman Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

**Report of the
Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) for
Trade in Animals and Animal Products**

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The Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) for Trade in Animals and Animal Products

Advisory Committee Report to the President, the Congress and the United States Trade Representative on the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement

I. Purpose of the Committee Report

Section 2104 (e) of the Trade Act of 2002 requires that advisory committees provide the President, the U.S. Trade Representative, and Congress with reports required under Section 135 (e) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, not later than 30 days after the President notifies Congress of his intent to enter into an agreement.

Under Section 135 (e) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, the report of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations and each appropriate policy advisory committee must include an advisory opinion as to whether and to what extent the agreement promotes the economic interests of the United States and achieves the applicable overall and principle negotiating objectives set forth in the Trade Act of 2002.

The report of the appropriate sectoral or functional committee must also include an advisory opinion as to whether the agreement provides for equity and reciprocity within the sectoral or functional area.

Pursuant to these requirements, the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) for Trade in Animals and Animal Products hereby submits the following report.

II. Executive Summary of Committee Report

Please refer to Section V of the report below

III. Brief Description of the Mandate of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) for Trade in Animals and Animal Products

The advisory committee is authorized by Sections 135 (c)(1) and (2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93-618), as amended, and is intended to assure that representative elements of the private sector have an opportunity to make known their views to the U.S. Government on trade and trade policy matters. The committee provides a formal mechanism through which the U.S. Government may seek advice and information. The continuance of the committee is in the public interest in connection with the work of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and

the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. This advisory committee provides valuable private sector input.

IV. Negotiating Objectives and Priorities of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) for Trade in Animals and Animal Products

A guiding principle for the Animals and Animal Products ATAC in bilateral, regional and multilateral trade negotiations is to improve export opportunities for U.S. dairy, livestock, meat and poultry products through the elimination of unfair tariff and nontariff trade barriers, including veterinary and sanitary restrictions on imports that are not based on sound science. Related to this is the acceptance of FSIS as the certifying authority for meat and poultry exports.

V. Advisory Committee Opinion on Agreement

The Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) for Trade in Animals and Animal Products provides the following comments on the U.S. - Oman Free Trade Agreement (FTA):

Although Oman has not been a large market for U.S. dairy, meat and poultry products, exports are expected to grow with the advantage achieved by this FTA of immediate, duty-free access for all U.S. agricultural commodities. This Committee recognizes and commends this FTA as a useful model for the further liberalization of trade between the United States and countries of the Persian Gulf and elsewhere in the Middle East.

We want to make sure however, that the expiration date requirement for meat be removed under the FTA. This is an issue that the industry has tried to remove from export requirements and be placed into commercial documents to be settled between buyer and seller.

While Oman's commitment to making science-based decisions about SPS measures is good, it falls short of a statement stating Oman accepts USDA's inspection for wholesome and veterinary requirements. Please assure the committee that Oman is committed to more than executing science-based SPS decisions.

With the above noted comments, the ATAC for Animal and Animal Products has adopted the following resolution: "Resolved, the Animals and Animal Products ATAC supports the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement".

VI. Membership of Committee

Attached

**Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade
in Animals and Animal Products**

NAME	COMPANY
John J. Reddington	ATAC Chair, American Meat Institute
James R. Bailey III	Wal-Mart Stores
Jaime A. Castaneda	National Milk Producers Federation
Gregory F. Doud	National Cattlemen's Beef Association
Richard A. Ellinghuysen	Producers Livestock Marketing Association
Jerry B. Fickel	Select Sires, Inc.
Richard G. Fritz	U.S. Meat Export Federation
John D. Hardin, Jr.	John Hardin Farms
Dana R. Hauck	Pike Trail Cattle Co. Inc.
Gregory A. Ibach	Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Eric J. Joiner	AJC International, Inc.
Joanne R. Kaminski	Will Poultry, Co.
Frank K. Leaverton	Shore Genetics, Inc.
John W. Lincoln	Linholt Farm & New York Farm Bureau
Mark L. Lobstein	USA Poultry & Egg Export Council
Thomas W. May	Trugman-Nash, Inc.
Daniel P. Meyer	American Dairy Products Institute
Shawna D. Morris	American Butter Institute
Michael L. Mullins	Cargill, Inc.
Daniel Ochylski	International Composite Systems
Gary R. Reckrodt	Seaboard Farms Inc. / Reckrodt Farms
Paul E. Rodgers	American Sheep Industry Association, Inc.
William P. Roenigk	National Chicken Council
David J. Salmonsens	American Farm Bureau Federation
Donald H. Schriver	Dairy Farmers of America
Jane E. Shey	Shey & Associates
Manuel S. Souza	Mel-Delin Dairy
Thomas M. Suber	U.S. Dairy Export Council
Kent J. Swisher	National Renderers Association, Inc.
James E. Tillison	Alliance of Western Milk Producers
Gene L. Wiese	Wiese & Sons
James J. Willrett	J. Willrett Farms
Dennis C. Wolff	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Robert D. Yonkers	International Dairy Foods Association

