

July 14, 2004

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

Dear Ambassador Zoellick:

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. - Bahrain Free Trade Agreement reflecting consensus on the proposed Agreement.

Sincerely,

James R. Hoben, Chair
Agricultural Technical Advisory
Committee for Trade in Animals and
Animal Products

The U.S. - Bahrain 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.-Bahrain 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 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.

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. - Bahrain Free Trade Agreement (FTA):

Although Bahrain has not been a large market for U.S. dairy, livestock 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. Bahrain's commitment to adopt international standards for the labeling of prepackaged foods, including the elimination of government-mandated shelf-life restrictions, will enhance to competitiveness of U.S. meat and poultry products in the Bahrain market. Also appreciated are the rules of origin provisions of this FTA that should restrict the transshipment of third-country products to the United States through Bahrain.

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.

Subsequent to its July 1, 2004, meeting, the ATAC adopted the following resolution: "Resolved, the Animals and Animal Products ATAC supports the U.S.-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement".

VI. Membership of Committee

Name	Organization	City/State
Jaime Castaneda	National Milk Producers Federation	Arlington, VA
Tom Cook	National Renderers Association, Inc.	Alexandria, VA
Gregory Doud	National Cattleman's Beef Association	Washington, DC
Richard Ellinghuysen	Producers Livestock Marketing Association	Omaha, NE
Richard Fritz	U.S. Meat Export Federation	Denver, CO
John Hardin	John Hardin Farms	Danville, IN
Dana Hauck	Pike Trail Cattle Co., Inc.	Delphos, KS
James Hoben	Interra International, Inc.	Atlanta, GA
John Hogan	John Hogan, Attorney	Washington, DC
Gregory Ibach	Nebraska Department of Agriculture	Lincoln, NE
John Lincoln	Linholt Farm and New York Farm Bureau	Bloomfield, NY
Thomas May	Trugman-Nash, Inc.	New York, NY
Dennis McDonald	Open Spear Ranch	Melville, MT
David Meeker	Federation of Animal Science Societies	Arlington, VA
Daniel Meyer	American Dairy Products Institute	Elmhurst, IL
Toby Moore	USA Poultry and Egg Export Council	Stone Mountain, GA
Michael Mullins	Cargill, Inc.	Washington, DC
James Peterson	Jim Peterson Ranch	Buffalo, MT
John Reddington	American Meat Institute	Arlington, VA
William Roenigk	National Chicken Council	Washington, DC
Donald Schriver	Dairy Farmers of America	Kansas City, MO
Jane Shey	Shey & Associates	Annapolis, MD
Ray Souza	Mel-Delin Dairy	Turlock, CA
Thomas Suber	U.S. Dairy Export Council	Arlington, VA
Jeffrey Swain	BC Natural Foods	Evergreen, CO
James Tillison	Alliance of Western Milk Producers	Sacramento, CA
Gene Wiese	Wiese & Sons	Manning, IA
Dennis Wolff	Pen-Col Farms	Millville, PA
Robert Yonkers	National Cheese Institute	Washington, D.C.

