

February 25, 2003

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

Honorable Ann M. Veneman
Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Ambassador Zoellick and Secretary Veneman:

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 for trade in Grains, Feed, and Oilseeds on the Free Trade Agreement with Singapore, reflecting consensus on the proposed Agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald E. Latham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

Donald E. Latham
Chair
Grains, Feed, and Oilseeds ATAC

The U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

Report of the
Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for trade in Grains, Feed, and Oilseeds

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Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for trade in Grains, Feed, and Oilseeds

Advisory Committee Report to the President, the Congress and the United States Trade Representative on the U.S. – Singapore 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)(1) 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 Grains, Feed and Oilseeds ATAC hereby submits the following report.

II. Executive Summary of Committee Report

Singapore has few trade barriers and is not a competitor to U.S. grains, feed and oilseeds. However, the stronger overall economic relationship potentially arising from this agreement enhances the chances of U.S. agricultural exporters better competing in the Singaporean market. The overall assessment by this ATAC is that the agreement as it relates to grains, feed, and oilseeds appears equitable and provides reciprocity. The Committee wholeheartedly endorses this particular agreement.

III. Brief Description of the Mandate of the Grains, Feed and Oilseeds ATAC

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. They provide 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. There are no other agencies or existing advisory committees that could supply this private sector input.

IV. Negotiating Objectives and Priorities of (Committee)

This FTA negotiation was well underway when this committee was chartered, so a negotiating mandate from this committee was not put forward. But, based on the committee's consensus view that the overall outcome of the negotiations is favorable to the grains, feed and oilseeds sector, it can be viewed as meeting the committee's general objectives.

V. Advisory Committee Opinion on Agreement

With a land mass that is 3.3 times larger than the District of Columbia but a population that is nearly eight times larger, Singapore imports most of its food needs. Consequently, it has few trade barriers and is not a competitor to U.S. grains, feed and oilseeds. For this reason, the agreement required no special agriculture provisions except for references to enhanced cooperation in dealing with sanitary and phytosanitary issues, and clarifications on rules of origin related to harvested crops, sugar content, and the mere addition of water. For the sake of international consensus building, the U.S. might have additionally sought a specific reference in the agreement to new technologies like biotechnology and the importance of mutual recognition.

Major suppliers of grains, feed and oilseeds to Singapore include Australia, China, Thailand and India. Their geographic proximity provides them with advantages over U.S. suppliers of these commodities. As a result, the U.S. has only supplied minor amounts of wheat and oilseeds in the past. While Singapore's barriers are few, the stronger overall economic relationship potentially arising from this agreement enhances the chances of U.S. agricultural exporters better competing in the Singaporean market.

VI. Grain, Feed and Oilseed ATAC Membership

Name	Organization	City/State
Mr. Donald Latham (Chairman)	Latham Seed Company	Alexander, IA
Dr. Philip Abbott	Purdue University	West Lafayette, IN
Mr. Daniel G. Amstutz	Amstutz & Company	Arlington, VA
Mr. Dale Artho	National Grain Sorghum Producers	Wildorado, TX
Mr. William Barrett		Lexington, NE
Mr. Gary Blumenthal	World Perspectives, Inc.	Washington, D.C.
Mr. Kyd Brenner	DTB Associates, LLP	Washington, D.C.
Mr. Carl Brothers	Riceland Foods, Inc.	Stuttgart, AK
Mr. Tom Buis	National Farmers Union	Washington, D.C.
Mr. Robert Carlson	North Dakota Farmers Union	Jamestown, ND
Mr. Robert E. Cummings, Jr.	USA Rice Federation	Arlington, VA
Mr. Steve Daugherty	Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.	Des Moines, IA
Mr. Dennis R. DeLaughter	U.S. Rice Producers Association	Edna, TX
Ms. Jenifer Felzien	Women Involved in Farm Economics	Sterling, CO
Mr. Neal Fisher	North Dakota Wheat Commission	Bismark, ND
Mr. Dwain Ford	American Soybean Association	Kinmundy, IL
Mr. John Gordley	Gordley Associates, Inc.	Washington, D.C.
Mr. Paul B. Green	North American Millers' Association	Washington, D.C.
Mr. John Hansen	Nebraska Farmers Union	Lincoln, NE
Mr. Kenneth Hobbie	U.S. Grains Council	Washington, D.C.
Mr. Mark Hodges	Oklahoma Wheat Commission	Oklahoma City, OK
Mr. Herbert Karst	Montana Grain Growers Association	Sunburst, MT
Mr. Alan Kemper	Indiana Soybean Growers Association	Lafayette, IN
Mr. Larry Kleingartner	National Sunflower Association	Bismarck, ND
Mr. Charles Kruse	Missouri Farm Bureau	Jefferson City, MO
Mr. Tim Lust	National Grain Sorghum Producers	Lubbock, TX
Mr. Tim D. McGreevy	USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council	Moscow, ID

Dr. Owen J. Newlin	Agronomic Science Foundation	Des Moines, IA
Mr. George Obernagel	West Pointe Bank & Trust Company	Belleville, IL
Ms. Amy L. Philpott	National Dry Bean Council	McLean, VA
Mr. John Reed, Jr.	Archer Daniels Midland Company	Decatur, IL
Mr. Robert Reeves	Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils	Washington, D.C.
Ms. Candace A. Roper	CoBank	Englewood, CO
Dr. C. Parr Rosson III	Texas A&M University	College Station, TX
Mr. Michael Rue	Farming Enterprise	Marysville, CA
Mr. Robert Rynning	National Barley Growers Association	Kennedy, MN
Mr. Ladd Seaberg	MGP Ingredients, Inc.	Atchison, KS
Mr. Christopher Shaffer	S. Lightning Farms	Walla Walla, WA
Ms. Barbara P. Spangler	Wheat Export Trade Education Committee	Washington, D.C.
Ms. Tamara A. White	Illinois Farm Bureau	Bloomington, IL
Mr. David Winkles	South Carolina Farm Bureau	Columbia, SC