

February 25, 2003

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 Animal and Animal Products Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade on the Singapore Free Trade Agreement reflecting consensus on the proposed Agreement.

Sincerely,

Roger Allbee, Chair
Animal and Animal Products
Agricultural Technical Advisory
Committee on Trade

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

**Report of the Animal and Animal Products
Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade**

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

Advisory Committee Report to the President, the Congress and the United States Trade Representative on the 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 Animal and Animal Products Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade (ATAC) 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 Animal and Animal Products Technical Advisory Committee for Trade (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. 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 Animal and Animal Products Technical Advisory Committee for Trade (ATAC)

The Committee was not formed when negotiations began with Singapore. Therefore, the comments below, in Section V, reflect the priorities and objectives of the Animal and Animal Products ATAC

V. Advisory Committee Opinion on Agreement

The Animal and Animal Products Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade (ATAC) provides the following comments on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Singapore.

The Committee commends the Administration and its negotiators for developing an agreement that is comprehensive in scope, and that preserves the U.S. right to continue its domestic support and assistance programs by confining those issues to multilateral discussions at the World Trade Organization. Likewise, the negotiated rules of origin will ensure that the benefits of the FTA will accrue primarily to the parties to the agreement. Finally, the advisory committee believes that tariff concessions are appropriately balanced against concessions that Singapore had sought from other FTA partners.

Our trade advisory committee views non-tariff barriers as major hurdles to trade. In view of the difficulty in addressing all TBT (Technical Barriers to Trade), and all SPS (sanitary and phytosanitary) issues during the FTA negotiations, we recommend that a SPS committee be established that would have the authority to expedite action on an issue between the affected countries. This we believe would be beneficial to all exporters and importers of agricultural products.

Our trade advisory committee is grateful for the access that it had to the negotiators of the Singapore FTA. This is important we believe. We recommend, however, that supporting material be made more readily available on a need to know basis to cleared advisors, and that there be access to and briefings from other negotiators besides those dealing with agriculture. We believe that this is important so that our committee can better understand and have significant input into issues like rules of origin.

VI. Membership of Committee

Name	Organization	City/State
Dr. Rhona Applebaum	National Food Processors Assoc	Washington, D.C.
Roger Allbee	Council of NE Farmer Coop	Townshend, VT
Jamie Castaneda	National Milk Producers Federation	Arlington, VA
A. Mario Castillo	The Aegis Group, Ltd.	Washington, D.C.
Richard Fritz	U.S. Meat Export Federation	Denver, CO
John Hardin	Hardin Farms	Danville, IN
Dana Hauck	Pike Trail Cattle Co., Inc.	Delphos, KS
James Hoben	Pilgrams Pride Corp.	Broadway, VA
Gregory Ibach	Nebraska Dept. of Agric.	Lincoln, NE
Charles Clark	Tyson Foods, Inc.	Springdale, AR
Dr. Warren Clark Jr.	American Dairy Products Institute	Addison, IL
Leonard Condon	Phillip Morris Management Corp.	Washington, D.C.
Joaquin Contente	California Farmer's Union	Hanford, CA
Nancy Cook	Pet Food Institute	Washington, D.C.
Eric Joiner	AJC International, Inc	Atlanta, GA
John Lincoln	N.Y. Farm Bureau	Bloomfield, NY
Tom May	Trugman-Nash, Inc.	New York, N.Y.
Dennis McDonald	Open Spear Ranch	Melville, MT
Thomas Cook	National Renderers Assoc.	Alexandria, VA
Jeanne Davies	Davies Simmental Ranch	Dear Trail, CO
Randy Eldridge	Homeworkers Organized for More Employment	Orland, ME
Richard Ellinghuysen	Producers	Omaha, NE
James Peterson	Montana State Univ.	Bozeman, MT
Dr. Floyd McKeith	Univ. of Illinois	Urbana, IL
Toby Moore	USA Poultry & Egg Export Council	Stone Mtn., GA
Harry Pearson	Indiana Farm Bureau	Hartford City, IN
Jeffrey Swain	Booth Creek Management Corp.	West Grove, PA
Gary Tauchen	Tauchen Harmony Valley, Inc.	Bonduel, WI
William Roenigk	National Chicken Council	Washington, D.C.
Neal Schuman	Arthur Schuman, Inc.	Fairfield, NJ.
Jane Shey	Shey and Associates	Annapolis, MD

Manuel Souza	Western United Dairymen	Turlock, CA
James Tillision	Alliance of Western Milk Producers	Sacramento, CA
Caren Wilcox	Caren Wilcox & Associates	Washington, D.C.
Dennis Wolff	Pen-Col Farms	Millville, PA
Robert Yonkers	National Cheese Institute	Washington, D.C.
Thomas Suber	U.S. Dairy Export Council	Arlington, VA