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September 25, 2006

Ms. Jari Jensen
Office of Southeast Asia and the
Pacific and Pharmaceutical Policy
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508-0002

Re: Proposed Accelerated Duty Reduction
HTS Subheading 1901.10
U.S. Singapore FTA

Dear Ms. Jensen:

We represent Abbott Laboratories, which is headquartered at 100 Abbott Park Road in Abbott Park, Illinois 60064. We are writing in response to the notice published in the Federal Register on August 11, 2006, which requested comments on a proposed acceleration in the reduction of the U.S. duties under the U.S.-Singapore FTA on, among other things, "preparations for infant use, put up for retail sale" that are classified in HTS subheading 1901.10. Abbott does not support this proposed change.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Sean T. Murray

STM:srl

5RI/00RR/147813 (3203b)
lhz 9/22/06 lctt 9/25/06

PLEASE REPLY TO THE KANSAS CITY OFFICE

**Subheading for Which Singapore has Requested an Increase in Tariff Rate Quotas
HS 1901.10 (Nutritionals/Preparation for infant use, put up for retail sale)**

Nutritionals (HS 1901.10): Singapore has requested that tariff rate quotas be expanded to 10,000 metric tons by 2010.

A U.S. Company, Abbott Pte, Ltd., initiated the original request. The company has assessed that the U.S. demand for powdered infant formula will increase and hence intends to export this product to the U.S. from its Singapore plant. However, the quotas for dairy products in the USSFTA are very low to be of commercial significance to manufacturers of nutritionals in Singapore. There is a 6 metric tons quota for Year 3, which equates to the output for about 2 hours of manufacturing operations. This quota is significantly less than the 517 and 1685 metric tons offered for Year 3 under the US-Chile and US-Australian FTAs, respectively. The Company suggests that 10,000 metric tons (by 2010) would be more desirable and commercially significant quota.

