



THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

JAN 30 2002

The Honorable Eni F. H. Faleomavaega
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-5201

Dear Representative Faleomavaega:

Thank you for your letter regarding the provisions for canned tuna in the pending legislation to renew the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA). We appreciate your views on this issue.

The ATPA is an essential tool for the Administration's efforts to combat illegal drug trade and narco-terrorism and to promote regional stability and democracy. At the same time, we are looking at the potential impact that the tuna provisions in House and Senate versions of a renewal bill would have in a variety of areas, including American Samoa and the American fishing fleet.

The Administration has met with most of the interested parties, including Starkist, to develop a constructive solution. We will continue to work closely with Congress on this matter and will take into account your views as we proceed. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me or Brenda Becker, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. L. Evans", written in a cursive style.

Donald L. Evans