

the Congress to develop appropriate legislation to approve and implement this Free Trade Agreement.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 29, 2003.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 30.

**Notice—Notice of Intention To
Enter Into a Free Trade Agreement
With Singapore**
January 29, 2003

Pursuant to sections 2103(a) and 2105(a) of the Trade Act of 2002, I have notified the Congress of my intention to enter into a Free Trade Agreement with the Government of Singapore.

Pursuant to section 2105(a)(1) of that Act, this notice shall be published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 29, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
12:18 p.m., January 30, 2003]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 30, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on January 31.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting Notification of
Intention To Enter Into a Free Trade
Agreement With Singapore**
January 29, 2003

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with sections 2103(a)(1) and 2105(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002 (the "Trade Act"), I am pleased to notify the Congress of my intent to enter into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Government of Singapore.

The Agreement we have negotiated promotes our commitment to secure a level playing field and open new opportunities for America's workers, farmers, businesses, and

consumers in global trade. The United States is a party to only three out of more than 200 existing FTAs, leaving Americans at a competitive disadvantage in many markets. With the enactment of Trade Promotion Authority; the completion of this Agreement; ongoing global, regional, and bilateral trade negotiations; and the continued support of the Congress, the United States is reasserting leadership in world trade.

United States leadership in promoting trade liberalization advances our national interests. Free trade promotes our values by encouraging openness, the rule of law, and respect for private property. It builds global prosperity and strengthens security. Free trade employs the power of markets to meet the needs of the poor and has helped lift millions of people out of poverty by putting them on the path to prosperity. In the extended campaign against terrorism, free trade can be an economic ally. By helping to create opportunity and hope in poorer societies, open trade counters those who would destroy rather than create.

Securing open access to markets abroad is vital to the strength and continued growth of the U.S. economy. In the previous decade, exports accounted for 25 percent of our economic growth. They currently support the jobs of more than 12 million Americans.

Singapore is our 11th largest trading partner with total two-way trade in goods and services valued at \$38.8 billion in 2001. This FTA will improve opportunities for U.S. exports, growth, and investment, while also providing increased opportunities for the people of Singapore. This Agreement provides for substantial market access across the entire services sector and locks in Singapore's zero tariff rates on goods, including agriculture.

Fair treatment of U.S. goods and services is important to increasing market access. This Agreement has, among other provisions, specific and groundbreaking customs procedures and transparency requirements that will promote efficiency and fairness. It also establishes a secure and predictable legal framework for U.S. investors operating in Singapore.