

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 8, 2008

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Recently the Chairmen and Ranking Members of both the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance sent a letter to you regarding the WTO Doha Round negotiations. We are writing today to echo the same sentiments as our Chairmen and Ranking Members.

We appreciate U.S. negotiators not accepting a proposal in July that would increase trade barriers and appreciate Ambassador Schwab's recent statement that she does not want to commit to a Doha agreement for the sake of reaching an agreement.

We are strong proponents of free and fair trade, but we also believe it would be ill-advised to try and force last minute negotiations on an overall WTO package. We are concerned that the deep and fundamental policy points dividing us from our trading partners might be overlooked in a rush to close a deal. If such actions were to occur, we would likely be forced to oppose any such package.

We know the importance of free trade and the power it holds to improve the lives of people around the globe and across the economic spectrum, particularly in these challenging economic times. We will continue to support the WTO and bilateral trade pacts so long as they continue to expand opportunities for U.S. farmers and manufacturers to export their products across a level playing field.

Respectfully,

