

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508
March 1, 2010

Mr. Steven Bipes
Executive Director
Brazil-U.S. Business Council
1615 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20062

Dear Mr. Bipes:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of coalition of associations identifying your concerns regarding the impact of possible retaliation by Brazil on the U.S. workers, farmers and companies as a result of the WTO cotton subsidy dispute between the United States and Brazil.

I share your preference for a negotiated resolution to these issues, without Brazil imposing countermeasures. Like you, we want to work to avoid tensions in our important trade relationship with Brazil.

This dispute raises a number of complex issues and the specific parameters of a solution have not been identified. However, I assure you that we will continue taking all appropriate steps to pursue a negotiated resolution and I thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Kirk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Ambassador Ron Kirk