

June 22, 2010

The Honorable Ron Kirk  
U.S. Trade Representative  
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Ambassador Kirk and Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of a broad coalition of U.S. businesses, workers, farmers and ranchers, thank you for your efforts to engage Brazil in a dialogue that resulted in the June 17 announcement of a framework agreement that successfully averted Brazilian trade retaliation related to the WTO cotton dispute for the immediate future. We look forward to working with you and the U.S. Congress to secure a definitive resolution of this dispute.

As you know, Brazilian countermeasures against U.S. exports and intellectual property rights would jeopardize tens of thousands of American jobs. U.S. companies are striving to propel the U.S. economy out of recession, and the Brazilian market's vast opportunities are critical to these efforts. Brazilian retaliation could significantly damage bilateral relations and cost U.S. workers, farmers, and businesses opportunities far beyond those enjoyed by those who sell the products on Brazil's retaliation list.

We understand that much work remains to be done to ensure that a permanent solution to the dispute is reached. The risk of harm to U.S. trade remains. We urge you to continue engaging Brazil in a dialogue aimed at achieving the intermediary benchmarks established by the framework agreement and to work with the U.S. Congress to facilitate the appropriate modifications to U.S. agricultural programs in the next farm bill.

We appreciate your efforts, and we are fully prepared to assist you as you work with Brazil and the U.S. Congress to place this dispute behind us and to seize the vast potential of the U.S.-Brazil commercial relationship.

Sincerely,

Advanced Medical Technology Association  
American Chamber of Commerce - Brazil  
American Automotive Policy Council  
Brazil-U.S. Business Council  
Council of the Americas  
CropLife America  
Information Technology Industry Council  
Intellectual Property Owners Association  
Medical Imaging Technology Alliance  
Motion Picture Association of America

National Association of Manufacturers  
National Electrical Manufacturers Association  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
Personal Care Products Council  
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America  
Recording Industry Association of America  
Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc.  
Telecommunications Industry Association  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
U.S. Wheat Associates

cc: Miriam Sapiro, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, Office of the U.S. Trade  
Representative

James Miller, Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, United States  
Department of Agriculture