

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 style with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ambassador Ron Kirk