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

The Honorable Irving A. Williamson
Chairman
United States International Trade Commission
500 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20436

JAN 8 2013

Dear Chairman Williamson:

As part of the 2012 Annual Review for modification of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) has recently decided to accept certain product petitions, including petitions for waivers of competitive need limitations (CNL).

In accordance with sections 503(a)(1)(A), 503(e), and 131(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended ("the 1974 Act"), and pursuant to the authority of the President delegated to the United States Trade Representative (USTR) by sections 4(c) and 8(c) and (d) of Executive Order 11846 of March 31, 1975, as amended, and pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, I hereby notify the Commission that the articles identified in Part A of the enclosed Annex are being considered for designation as eligible articles for purposes of the GSP program. I therefore request that the Commission provide its advice as to the probable economic effect on U.S. industries producing like or directly competitive articles, on U.S. imports, and on U.S. consumers of the elimination of U.S. import duties on these articles for all beneficiary developing countries under the GSP program.

Under authority delegated by the President, pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, and in accordance with section 503(d)(1)(A) of the 1974 Act, I request that the Commission provide advice on whether any industry in the United States is likely to be adversely affected by a waiver of the CNLs specified in section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act for the countries and articles specified in Part B of the enclosed Annex. Further, in accordance with section 503(c)(2)(E) of the 1974 Act, I request that the Commission provide its advice with respect to whether like or directly competitive products were being produced in the United States on January 1, 1995. I also request that the Commission provide its advice as to the probable economic effect on total U.S. imports, as well as on consumers, of the requested waivers. With respect to the competitive need limit in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(I) of the 1974 Act, the Commission is requested to use the dollar value limit of $155,000,000.

To the extent possible, I would appreciate it if the probable economic effect advice and statistics (profile of the U.S. industry and market and U.S. import and export data) and any other relevant information or advice is provided separately and individually for each U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule subheading for all products subject to this request.

In accordance with USTR policy on implementing Executive Order 13526, as amended, I direct you to mark or identify as "Confidential," for a period of ten years, such portions of the Commission's report and its working papers that contain the Commission's advice and assessment of probable economic effects on domestic industries producing like or directly competitive articles, on U.S. imports, and on U.S. consumers. Consistent with the Executive Order, this information is being classified on the basis that it concerns economic matters relating to the national security. In addition,

USTR considers the Commission's report to be an inter-agency memorandum that will contain pre-decisional advice and be subject to the deliberative process privilege.

I request that you submit an outline of this report as soon as possible to enable USTR officials to provide you with further guidance on its classification, including the extent to which portions of the report will require classification and for how long. Based on this outline, an appropriate USTR official will provide you with written instructions. All confidential business information contained in the report should also be clearly identified.

I would greatly appreciate if the requested advice, including those portions indicated as "Confidential" be provided to my Office by no later than 90 days from receipt of this letter. Once the Commission's confidential report is provided to my Office, and we review and approve the classification marking, the Commission should issue, as soon as possible thereafter, a public version of the report containing only the unclassified information, with any confidential business information deleted.

The Commission's assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Ron Kirk

ANNEX

Products are listed by Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) subheadings. The product descriptions in this list are for informational purposes only; the definitive tariff nomenclature for the products listed below can be found in the HTS (except in those cases where only part of a subheading is the subject of a petition). The descriptions below are not intended to delimit in any way the scope of the relevant subheadings. The HTS may be viewed at http://www.usitc.gov/tata/index.htm.

Table A: 2012 GSP Annual Review: Petitions submitted for products to be considered for addition to the list of GSP-eligible products

HTS Subheading	Brief Description	Petitioner
0603.11.00 or 0603.11.0010, 0603.11.0030, 0603.11.0060	Sweetheart, Spray and other Roses, fresh cut	Embassy of Ecuador; La Associatíon de Productores y/o Exportadores de Flores del Ecuador (EXPOFLORES); Colour Republic; Esmeralda Farms, Inc. and; EG Hill Company, Inc.
0710.80.97 or 0710.80.9722 0710.80.9724 0710.80.9726	Vegetables nesi, uncooked or cooked by steaming or boiling in water, frozen, reduced in size OR the 3 existing 10 digit lines for broccoli	Embassy of Ecuador; Ecuadorian American Chamber of Commerce; APROFEL; Superior Foods International LLC
2005.99.80	Artichokes, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, not frozen	Embassy of Ecuador; Ecuadorian American Chamber of Commerce; I.A.E. Industria Agrícola Exportadora (INAEXPO C.A.); Agrocorp (Egypt)
7408.19.0030	Refined copper, wire, w/maximum cross-sectional dimension of 6 mm or less	Parapanema S.A. (Brazil)

Table B: 2012 GSP Annual Review: Petitions submitted for waiver of GSP CNLs

HTS Subheading	Brief Description	Petitioner
0410.00.00 (Indonesia)	Edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	Government of Indonesia
0603.13.00 (Thailand)	Orchids: Cut flowers and flower buds of a kind suitable for bouquets or for ornamental purposes, fresh, dried, dyed, bleached, impregnated or otherwise prepare	Royal Thai Government

HTS Subheading	Brief Description	Petitioner
1102.90.25 (Thailand)	Rice flour	Royal Thai Government
2106.90.99 (Thailand)	Food preparations not elsewhere specified or included, not canned or frozen	Royal Thai Government
6911.10.37 (Indonesia)	Porcelain or china (o/than bone china) household table & kitchenware in sets in which aggregate value of arts./US note 6(b) o/$56 n/o $200	Government of Indonesia
7202.21.50 (Russia)	Ferrosilicon containing by weight more than 55% but not more than 80% of silicon, nesoi	CHEMK Industrial Group and Russian Ferro-Alloys, Inc.
7202.30.00 (Georgia)	Ferrosilicon manganese	Georgian American Alloys, Inc., Felman Trading, Inc., Felman Production, LLC, and Georgian Manganese, LLC
7202.99.20 (Brazil)	Calcium silicon ferroalloys	Polymet Alloys, Inc. and JMC (USA) Inc.-Bozel North American Division
7307.21.50 (India)	Stainless steel, not cast, flanges for tubes/pipes, not forged or forged and machined, tooled and otherwise processed after forging	Viraj Profiles Limited and Bebitz Flanges Works Pvt. Ltd.
7307.91.50 (India)	Iron or steel (o/than stainless), not cast, flanges for tubes/pipes, not forged or forged and machined, tooled & processed after forging	Viraj Profiles Limited and Bebitz Flanges Works Pvt. Ltd.
7408.29.10 (Thailand)	Copper wire, coated or plated with metal	Royal Thai Government
9506.70.40 (Thailand)	Ice skates w/footwear permanently attached	Royal Thai Government