

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

December 12, 2005

Ellen R. Shaffer, PhD, MPH, Director
Center for Policy Analysis on Trade and Health 98
Seal Rock Drive
San Francisco, CA 94121-1437

Dear Ms. Shaffer:

On May 2, 2005, you wrote to USTR and the Department of Commerce about your concern that there was a lack of representation of the public health and health care community in the trade advisory process. You suggested several committees where you believed representatives of the public health and health care community had an interest. On May 31st, you met with representatives of USTR to discuss those concerns in more depth. At that time Mr. Christopher Padilla, the Assistant USTR of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Liaison, assured you that USTR would carefully consider your request to include Public Health and Health Care representatives in the advisory process.

Since those discussions, we have taken several steps to expand the representation of the public health and health care community in our advisory process. Earlier this year, we appointed Ms. Judy Wilkenfeld of Campaign for Tobacco-Free IGds to the Agriculture Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Tobacco, Cotton, Peanuts and Planting Seeds. When Ms. Wilkenfeld informed us she would be unable to serve on that Committee we immediately began the process to replace her with another representative of the public health community. We also have appointed a representative of the Generic Pharmaceutical Association to serve on the Industry Trade Advisory Committees on Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Health/Science Products, and Services (ITAC 3).

Last week you contacted us again inquiring as to the status of our consideration of additional public health or health care representatives in the advisory committee process. We informed you that we were drafting and would soon be issuing a Federal Register announcement soliciting public health or health care representatives for Industry Trade Advisory Committees on Chemicals~ Pharmaceuticals~ Health/Science Products, and Services (ITAC 3) and on Intellectual Property Rights (ITAC 1S). We will be sending that announcement to the Federal Register later **this** week.

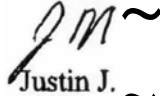
We believe it is appropriate to include representatives from the public health and health care communities on ITAC 3 and ITAC 15 because those are the two industry committees in which significant health and trade issues are most likely to arise. We believe that advice from public health and health care community representatives will be a valuable addition to the work of these committees and to our advisory system as a whole. We look forward to working with these representatives once they are appointed.

Ms. Ellen Shaffer, PhD, MPH

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We appreciate your interest in our advisory process and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Justin J. [unclear]
Assistant USTR for
Intergovernmental Affairs



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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

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Dr. Shaffer:

Justin McCarthy has asked me to send this to you. Per your request we are responding by December 12. At your request we are sending a copy of this response to Marcello Mollo at Earthjustice.