

**Business Roundtable
Coalition of Service Industries
Comprehensive Market Access Coalition
Emergency Committee for American Trade
National Association of Manufacturers
National Foreign Trade Council
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Council for International Business**

September 12, 2005

The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-232 of the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 of the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Amendment No. 1665 to H.R. 2862, the Commerce, State and Justice FY 2006
Appropriations Bill

Dear Mr. Leaders:

We are writing to express our opposition to Amendment No. 1665 to H.R. 2862, the Commerce, State, Justice FY 2006 Appropriations bill, which, if adopted, would undermine U.S. interests in a successful conclusion to the ongoing World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations.

The WTO's Doha Development Agenda negotiations have the ability to level the playing field for U.S. farmers, manufacturers and service providers, cut global red tape and improve the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism. Some estimates predict that the Doha negotiations would provide a net increase of \$2,500 for the average family of four and could lift 500 million people out of poverty. A successful conclusion to these negotiations is very much in the interest of the United States.

Amendment 1665, by requiring that certain issues be taken completely off the negotiating table, would tie the hands of U.S. negotiators and undermine the ability of the United States to reach a successful outcome in these negotiations. If the United States were unilaterally to take issues off the table, other WTO members would do precisely the same thing on issues of great importance to major sectors of the U.S. economy. In the end, this type of mandated outcome approach has only one likely result: a stand-off among WTO members that leaves in place the substantial barriers to U.S. agricultural, goods and services exports. This is precisely the wrong action for the United States to take at such a critical juncture in these negotiations.

The Trade Act of 2002 already includes a full trade negotiating objective on trade remedy rules to which Congress agreed after extensive debate. U.S. negotiators certainly need to advance and defend U.S.

interests, particularly as laid out in Trade Promotion Authority. The Trade Act also includes extensive consultation mechanisms on trade remedy issues in particular. Further action, particularly Amendment No. 1665, which is so detrimental to U.S. interests, should be rejected.

We urge you to oppose Amendment No. 1665.

Respectfully,

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Cc: Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, Committee on Finance
Max Baucus, Ranking Member, Committee on Finance
Thad Cochran, Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
Robert C. Byrd, Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
Richard C. Shelby, Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations
Barbara A. Mikulski, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science
Appropriations