

August 5, 2004

The Honorable Sonia Guzmán de Hernández
Secretary of State of Industry and Commerce
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Dear Secretary Guzmán:

In the course of negotiations between the United States and the Dominican Republic regarding the Dominican Republic – Central America – United States Free Trade Agreement signed this day (the “Agreement”), representatives of the Dominican Republic noted that, under the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA), articles produced in the Dominican Republic that are currently eligible for CBTPA benefits will no longer be eligible for these benefits once the Agreement enters into force. The Dominican representatives expressed concern that, as a result, articles that are co-produced by enterprises in the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Haiti will also become ineligible for CBTPA benefits.

I am pleased to confirm that the Administration intends to work with the Congress to amend the CBTPA to allow articles currently eligible for CBTPA benefits that are co-produced by enterprises located in the territory of a Party to the Agreement and in a CBTPA beneficiary country to continue to be eligible for such benefits after the Agreement enters into force.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Zoellick