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March 20, 2007

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The Honorable Susan Schwab
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Schwab:

I am writing concerning the decision by the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the case brought by Antigua and Barbuda against the United States entitled "Measures Affecting the Cross-Border Supply of Gambling and Better Services" (WT/DS285).

It is my understanding that the WTO Appellate Body has found that the U.S. is not in compliance with its WTO obligations with respect to the provision of remote gambling services, based, in part, on the fact that we currently allow domestic remote wagering on an interstate basis in a number of areas, including horse racing. Recent news reports indicate that a WTO panel has determined that the U.S. has not taken any measures to comply with this decision and remains in violation of our commitments under the WTO.

I am concerned that our failure to resolve this dispute may harm our credibility as we seek to press countries like China regarding their violations on a range of issues, including intellectual property protection, subsidies, and currency manipulation. As you know, I have long been skeptical of China as a reliable geopolitical and economic partner. In the event the United States fails to reach a satisfactory resolution of the Antigua dispute, it could provide China with an argument to ignore a WTO decision favorable to the United States.

The Honorable Susan Schwab
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Although the most recent panel decision has not been made public, it is my understanding that USTR has not yet decided upon its next steps. Therefore, I would appreciate your office notifying me as to what steps have been taken to engage the Antiguan on this issue to date. Additionally, I would ask that you provide a description of what you believe are the necessary steps that must be taken to bring the United States into compliance with the WTO ruling.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



LEANNA ROS-LEHTINEN
Ranking Member