

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

June 1, 2005

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

Dear Dr. Shaffer:

Thank you for your letter to Ambassador Portman and Secretary Gutierrez of May 2, 2005, requesting that public health representatives be appointed to various trade advisory committees. I appreciate also that you came to USTR yesterday to discuss your request with me and several of my colleagues.

As you know, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative manages the trade advisory committees in cooperation with other agencies of the federal government. Since your request concerns advisory committees co-managed with other agencies, I am sending this letter also on behalf of my colleagues at the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce.

Let me assure you that your request is being given careful consideration. I have already met with colleagues from USTR and other concerned agencies to discuss the issues you raised, and we hope to be able to provide a fuller response to your letter soon.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email with any questions, or to provide us with any additional information you think would be useful.

Sincerely,



Christopher A. Padilla
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative