

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 15, 2010

The Honorable Shara L. Aranoff  
Chairman, United States International Trade Commission  
500 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chairman Aranoff:

I am writing to thank you for the technical assistance that International Trade Commission staff provided in the development of the interagency report on H.R. 2454's impact on international competitiveness and emission leakage. The Administration transmitted this report to Congress last month and has begun briefing Congressional staff and stakeholders on the key findings.

The quality of the final report is a direct testament to the hard work of your staff, Dr. Alan Fox and Dr. Ashley Winston, and to their close collaboration with staff from other agencies and the White House. Quite simply, without their contributions, we could not have produced much of the analysis that we offered the Senate in the report. Moreover, our ability to produce a high-quality work product depended on the close coordination between ITC staff and staff of the various agencies that brought different expertise and skills to the table. As a result of the collaboration between Dr. Fox and Dr. Winston and technical staff at other agencies, the Administration produced an analysis that combined high quality modeling with the most accurate emission data available and a detailed understanding of the key provisions of the legislation being modeled. Your staff's continuous communication with staff at other agencies made it possible to improve the modeling in ways that would not have been possible if interactions were more limited and less frequent.

I hope that we can continue this kind of collaboration in the future. The interagency report serves as an initial step in the Administration's engagement on the issue of international competitiveness and emission leakage. We expect to continue our analytical efforts and hope that the interagency group can continue to draw on your staff's expertise to address questions about the competitiveness impacts of comprehensive energy and climate legislation.

Sincerely,



Carol M. Browner  
Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change

cc:

Dr. Robert Koopman  
Dr. Hugh Arce