

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508  
March 28, 2011

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

Thank you for your letter supporting reevaluation of Argentina's eligibility under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program.

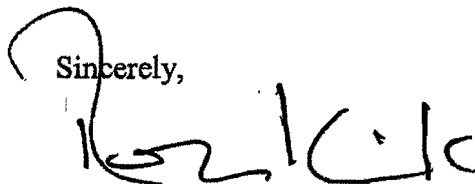
As you may know, the interagency GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee, led by USTR, has received three petitions in the past few years seeking Argentina's removal from the GSP program based on statutory eligibility criteria. Two of these petitions have been accepted for formal review; a decision is pending on whether to accept the third petition. Each of the two accepted petitions alleges that Argentina has failed to act in good faith in recognizing as binding or in enforcing an arbitral award in favor of a U.S. company. On September 28, 2010, the GSP Subcommittee held a public hearing on these two petitions. The Subcommittee is now reviewing the hearing testimony and other information submitted in relation to these petitions and is considering whether the circumstances warrant any changes to Argentina's GSP eligibility, which would require a determination by the President.

I should note that authorization of the GSP program expired on December 31, 2010. Until Congress acts to reauthorize the program, the Administration will be unable to make final determinations on any pending GSP product or country practice petitions, including the Argentina petitions.

In your letter, you also expressed concerns about steps that the Government of Argentina has taken that negatively affect access to its market, including for exports of U.S. goods and services. We share your concerns and continue to raise these issues with the Argentine Government, urging it to address trade-inhibiting policies and procedures affecting U.S. exports and interests.

Thank you for your interest in these important issues. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Ron Kirk