

Office of the Governor
Mail Stop: 40002
(360) 753-6780

REFERRAL DIRECTIONS*

Referred To: **File Only**

Action: **No reply required**

CC's: Governor
Chief of Staff
Communications Office
Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development
Director of External Affairs
Robert Hamilton

Comments: Responding to the Governor's June 17, 2004 letter regarding Washington's position regarding the extension of the state's government procurement commitments under the WTO.

Referral Date: 8/13/2004

Return To: Kenneth Brett 902-0385 SMTP:kenneth.brett@gov.wa.gov

* FOR COMPLETE DIRECTIONS REFER TO CITIZEN RESPONSE TEAM GUIDELINES.

CONTACT INFORMATION

From: The Honorable Robert Zoellick
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, WA 20508

Contact Date: 8/13/2004
Contact Type: FAX
Constituent Type: VIP Correspondence

Categories:	ECO
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**Office of WTO and
Multilateral Affairs**

600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508
Fax: 202-395-5674

TO: Gov. Locke

FROM: Jean Grier

For Amb. Zellick

TELEPHONE NO: 202-395- 9476

DATE: Aug. 13, 2004

Telephone No: 360-753-6780

PAGES: 2

Fax No: 360-753-4110

Re: _____

- Urgent For Review Comments FYI

Comments:

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

AUG 13 2004

The Honorable Gary Locke
Governor of Washington
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Locke:

Thank you for your letter of June 17, 2004, in which you clarified Washington's position regarding the extension of the state's government procurement commitments under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Government Procurement to certain countries with which we have recently concluded free trade agreements.

I appreciate that Washington's procurement commitments under these agreements do not apply to the policies that you identify in your letter. We do not believe it is necessary to alter Washington's exemptions under these agreements in light of the clarifications in your letter. However, we recognize and respect your decision to limit the coverage of Washington's procurements. As I stated in my September 2003 letter to you, it is up to each state to decide whether to cover its procurement under our trade agreements, and the extent of any such coverage.

Washington's commitment to cover its state procurement under our free trade agreements with Australia, Morocco, and the Central American countries provided important leverage for the United States in negotiating access to the sub-central entities of those countries. By agreeing to be bound by these agreements, the State of Washington helps open markets for U.S. exporters, including those in your state.

Sincerely,



Robert B. Zoellick