

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2007

The Honorable Susan Schwab
United States Trade Representative
Executive Office of the President
600 17th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Schwab:


We have followed with some interest the trade dispute between Antigua and the United States on the question of Internet gambling, and are aware that the United States has been found by the World Trade Organization (WTO) to be out of compliance with respect to its obligations under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

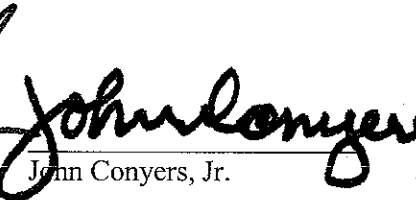
However, we were surprised to learn that your office has responded to this situation by taking the relatively unprecedented step of having the U.S. seek to withdraw its obligation under the GATS agreement. We are concerned about this because substantial trading partners, including the European Union, have pursued their right to meaningful compensation for the withdrawal of the obligation -- compensation which could prove expensive for the U.S. economy. However, we are perhaps more concerned about what this withdrawal says about U.S. credibility as a trading partner at a time when it is pursuing its own interests to market. In addition, we are very concerned about the precedent this sets for future situations in which parties to these agreements find a particular obligation inconvenient or politically difficult. Surely, they too might simply seek to follow the example set in this instance and withdraw the obligation. Inasmuch as the GATS agreement was negotiated largely at the urging of the U.S., this precedent is particularly worrisome.


Traditionally, when a U.S. law has been found to be out of compliance, the Administration has consulted with Congress about possible legislative solutions that seek to bring the U.S. back into compliance. In this case, however, your agency has chosen not to consult with Congress, but to instead take what we view as a drastic step which could have significant consequences for the entire WTO system.

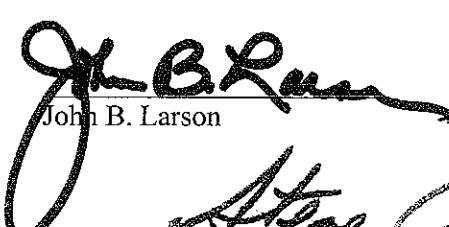
Accordingly, we are writing to express our interest in considering possible legislative solutions that might restore U.S. compliance with the GATS agreement without renouncing any of our commitments under that agreement. We would appreciate your assistance and advice as we explore such solutions.


Sincerely,



Robert Wexler



John Conyers, Jr.

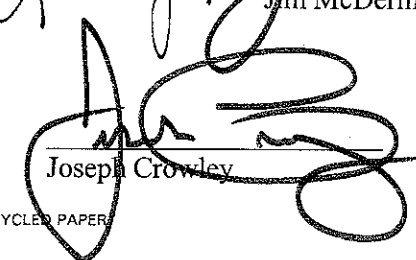

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