## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2008

Dear Mr. President,

The World Trade Organization's (WTO) Information Technology Agreement (ITA), one of the most important trade agreements of our time, is being threatened by the European Union (EU). We believe the Administration should step up the pressure to protect U.S. products covered by the ITA from unfair tariffs by the EU.

Specifically, the EU has begun applying tariffs to a variety of high-tech products that should enjoy duty-free treatment under the ITA. These products include LCD computer monitors, multifunction printers, and set-top boxes, with other products under imminent threat.

The high-tech products covered by the ITA are the backbone of the U.S. economy, generating enormous commercial and societal gains for the United States and the 69 other WTO members that have signed the ITA. Studies have found that nearly all of the growth in U.S. productivity over the last 10 years is due to information technology. This productivity increase translates into a U.S. economy that now produces \$1.9 trillion more in output each year than it would have otherwise.

We fully support Ambassador Schwab's efforts to hold the EU accountable to its obligations under the ITA. In light of EU intransigence though, we urge the Administration to take the next step and seek formal WTO dispute settlement with the EU for all products affected.

The United States cannot and should not let the EU succeed in eroding this vital trade agreement.

Sincerely,

Member of Congress

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