

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
OFFICE

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Governmental Affairs Office

740 Fifteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-1022
(202) 662-1760
FAX: (202) 662-1762

DIRECTOR
Robert D. Evans
(202) 662-1765
rdevans@staff.abanet.org

SENIOR LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
Denise A. Cardman
(202) 662-1761
cardmand@staff.abanet.org

Kevin J. Driscoll
(202) 662-1766
driscollk@staff.abanet.org

Lillian B. Gaskin
(202) 662-1768
gaskinl@staff.abanet.org

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
R. Larson Frisby
(202) 662-1098
frisbyr@staff.abanet.org

Kristi Gaines
(202) 662-1763
gainesk@staff.abanet.org

Kenneth J. Goldsmith
(202) 662-1789
goldsmithk@staff.abanet.org

Ellen McBarnette
(202) 662-1767
mcbarnee@staff.abanet.org

E. Bruce Nicholson
(202) 662-1769
nicholsonb@staff.abanet.org

DIRECTOR GRASSROOTS
OPERATIONS/LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
Julie M. Strandlie
(202) 662-1764
strandlj@staff.abanet.org

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
LAW CONSULTANT
Hayden Gregory
(202) 662-1772
gregoryh@staff.abanet.org

STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
Rita C. Aguilar
(202) 662-1780
aguilarr@staff.abanet.org

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Julie Pasatiempo
(202) 662-1776
jpasatiempo@staff.abanet.org

STAFF DIRECTOR FOR
INFORMATION SERVICES
Sharon Greene
(202) 662-1014
greenes@staff.abanet.org

EDITOR WASHINGTON LETTER
Rhonda J. McMillion
(202) 662-1017
mcmillionr@staff.abanet.org

February 24, 2006

The Honorable Robert Portman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20508


Dear Ambassador Portman:

On behalf of the American Bar Association ("ABA"), I write to commend the leadership of the United States in the effort to curb harmful fisheries subsidies by strengthening World Trade Organization ("WTO") rules affecting such subsidies.

The ABA has recently approved an updated policy on responsible stewardship of ocean resources (copy attached). That policy urges the U.S. Government to continue and enhance efforts to play a leadership role in the development and implementation of international initiatives to protect the world's marine ecosystems and ensure the ecologically sustainable use and development of the world's marine resources. Your efforts in the Doha negotiations to curb subsidy-driven over-fishing through multilateral disciplines mark a welcome step in that regard.

If the ABA can be of any assistance in helping you to push further this negotiating objective, please let us know.

Sincerely,


Robert D. Evans

enclosure