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

Robert D. Evans

enclosure