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June 20, 2007

Dr.
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Dear Dr. [redacted],

Thank you for contacting me about the discussions occurring under GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services) related to Distribution Services. I appreciate hearing from you and apologize for the delay in my response.

Like you, I believe that public health regulations and policies in other nations should be respected by the United States. Together, the United States and European Union are sponsoring a "plurilateral" request in Distribution Services in negotiations on GATS. The United States and European Union are pressuring other countries to make market access commitments "with no limitations" in Distribution Services, which, as you noted may include alcohol and tobacco. Such commitments could obstruct the ability of the government of a nation to implement policies that seek to minimize the negative effects of alcohol and tobacco on public health. If legislation concerning this aspect of trade policy should be considered by the House of Representatives, I will be sure to keep your thoughts in mind.

Again, thank you for contacting me. I hope you will continue to do so on issues of importance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Allen".

Tom Allen
Member of Congress

THA:jg