

With the U.S.-Canada trade agreement, we have begun to make progress in this critical area -- progress that we hope will set the pace for further progress in the ongoing multilateral trade talks in Geneva.

The U.S.-Canada trade deal sets out a package of trade-liberalizing measures, many of them product-specific. For example, we will exempt each other from restrictions under our respective meat import laws, ensuring free trade in beef and veal.

We have also agreed to prohibit export subsidies in our bilateral trade. This marks the first time that any governments have agreed to prohibitions on export subsidies in the agricultural sector.

Let me make a specific reference to how the agreement covers the wine industry, another West Coast interest.

Canadians are already the best foreign customers for American wines. Nonetheless, the pricing and distribution practices of Canada's provincially-controlled alcoholic beverage outlets has irritated American producers. The free trade agreement will phase out these practices over seven years and place U.S. wine on an equal footing with Canadian wines.

Finally, the U.S.-Canada trade agreement succeeds in opening up opportunities for investors on both sides of the border.

The agreement ensures that American investors in Canada and Canadian investors here in the U.S. are treated in exactly the same way as their domestic counterparts. This means secure access and non-discriminatory treatment.

As many of you are aware, we are major investors in each other's economy. Well over 400 of the Fortune 500 companies have established operations in Canada. And many are expanding those operations.

These Fortune 500 companies recognize the compelling reasons for doing business and investing in Canada. They see Canada as the right place at the right time.