Last name: Holmes
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Company Name: Province:Manitoba

Questions

Please comment on:

1) Areas of export interest, including products for which the CA-4 countries should eliminate tariffs more rapidly and/or remove other barriers to trade.

Intercity, charter/tour and commuter coaches. Need regulatory approval from each of the CA-4 countries to import fully built coaches based on current North American Motor Vehicle Safety Standards including wide, length and Gross Vehicle Weight ratings.

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2) Areas where there may be concerns if access to the Canadian market was to be improved for products from CA-4 countries.

Should not be a concern in our industry.

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3) Suggestions on trade facilitation issues e.g. impediments related to customs or other import-related procedures.

Need clear, concise and accurate information on what duties,taxes, special levies and VAT apply to fully built imported coaches. This is a very difficult area to get clear and correct information on. The cumulative add-on of all of these specials fees on the CIF value creates a competative disadvantage to Canadian companies.

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4) The possible inclusion of services within the scope of negotiations and services sectors in CA-4 markets that could be a target for further liberalization (eg. market access issues such as limitations on the number of firms or individuals allowed in a foreign market to provide a service).

Need to know whether there are any specific requirements or limitations on making direct sales to end customers in each country or whether our company must use local agents or distributors to make sales to end customers in each of the four countries.

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5) The possible inclusion of investment within the scope of negotiations, problems faced by Canadian investors in CA-4 countries and the type of rules that would provide Canadian investors with better access, treatment and protection for their investments (Describe any investment barriers or impediments, such as limits on foreign investment, local content requirements, restrictions on capital transfers, etc., that you may have encountered because you are a foreign investor).

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6) Any other issue of interest to your firm.

Will countries covered by the Andean or Mercosur treaties be afforded the same treatment as Canada or will they be subject to current import duties, taxes, local content etc.?

Pre-shipment inspection if currently required is both punative and an unnecessary added expense and must be eliminated. Special labeling is also an area of special concern due to the high cost of providing for the anticipated small number of potential sales.

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