



News Release

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WILSON RELEASES REGISTER OF UNITED STATES BARRIERS TO TRADE

The Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, today released the *Register of United States Barriers to Trade*. The document offers an illustrative list of barriers to the free flow of goods, services and investment into the United States. These barriers include subsidies, such as the export enhancement program for grain; domestic preference laws, such as the "Buy American Act"; customs and administrative procedures; and a range of other trade restrictive practices.

"The United States issued a report last month detailing trade barriers in existence in other countries, including Canada. It is important to point out that the United States also has numerous barriers to trade," the Minister commented.

"Canada is seeking the removal of these U.S. barriers in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, in the North American Free Trade negotiations, and in bilateral approaches, including consultations and dispute settlement procedures under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA)," Mr. Wilson said.

"Canada and the United States are each other's best trading partner, with two-way trade amounting to \$200 billion a year," Mr. Wilson noted. "The FTA has eliminated or reduced many trade barriers on both sides of the border and has benefitted Canadian industry through its important dispute settlement provisions. We will continue to work toward the elimination of remaining barriers."

The *Register* also documents Canadian action taken through the establishment of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and FTA panels to challenge U.S. trade action. "Canada has responded aggressively to U.S. trade action," the Minister noted. "We intend to use every mechanism at our disposal to defend our interests."

The Minister is asking businesspeople, academics, labour leaders and the provinces to let him know of additional barriers to trade they have encountered with the United States. Correspondence should be addressed to:

The United States Trade and Economic Policy Division (UEE)
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
Lester B. Pearson Building
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Ottawa, Ontario
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To obtain a copy of the *Register*, contact Info Export.
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