

May 6, 2003

The Honorable
Tommy Koh
Ambassador-at-Large
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dear Ambassador Koh:

During the course of negotiations of Chapter 9 (Telecommunications) of the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (the "Agreement"), Singapore expressed an interest in ensuring that provisions of the Agreement relating to telecommunication regulations address Singapore's interests at both the state and federal level. Although there are several provisions of the Agreement whose application is limited to the federal level, as a matter of practice, such provisions are generally also reflected in state-level regulation. Such provisions include articles 9.4.6(a) (Poles, Ducts and Conduits), 9.6 (Independent Regulation and Privatization), 9.10 (Enforcement), 9.11 (Resolution of Domestic Telecommunications Disputes), and 9.12 (Transparency).

Singapore inquired specifically about the applicability of these articles to California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Illinois, Florida, and Texas. I am pleased to confirm that the relevant laws, rules and practices of these states are consistent with these specific articles.

Sincerely,

Ralph F. Ives
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative
for Asia, the Pacific and APEC Affairs