

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

Mr. James Love
Director
Consumer Project on Technology
1621 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20009

FEB 8 2007

Dear Mr. Love:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the recent announcement by the Thai Government regarding the issuance of a compulsory license on a patented medicine. I understand that members of my staff have met with you to discuss your concerns.

Your letter assumes a level of detail about the U.S. Government's legal analysis and policy engagement on this issue that is at odds with our actual handling of the matter. The Thai Government's decisions regarding the management of that country's serious HIV/AIDS crisis require our respect and discretion. We have acted accordingly.

Our trade policy dialogue with Thailand will continue to emphasize the importance of effective intellectual property protection as an element in that country's effort to strengthen its investment climate and promote economic development. We will continue to stress the importance to Thailand of abiding fully by its WTO obligations, but will do so within the context of a full respect for the Doha Declaration and for Thailand's ability to make appropriate use of the flexibilities embodied in WTO rules.

We will continue to monitor this issue, taking into account your views and those of other stakeholders. Thank you again for providing your input on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Susan C. Schwab