

FTAA—COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Cover Sheet

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ISSUES ADDRESSED (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Subsidies, Antidumping and Countervailing Duties
Competition Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Civil Society
Dispute Settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic Commerce
Government Procurement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller Economies
Intellectual Property Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	The FTAA Process
Investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:
Market Access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Executive Summary—2 pages maximum—(see Open Invitation):

**Statement of
Jack Roney
Director of Economics and Policy Analysis
AMERICAN SUGAR ALLIANCE**

*In Response to Request for Comment Regarding
Negotiations on Market Access and Other Issues in the
World Trade Organization and the
Free Trade of the Americas
[Federal Register: April 14, 1999 (Volume 64, Number 71)]*

**Office of the United States Trade Representative
Washington D.C.
May 19, 1999**

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important hearing. I am Jack Roney, Director of Economics and Policy Analysis for the American Sugar Alliance (ASA). The ASA is the national coalition of growers, processors, and refiners of sugarbeets, sugarcane, and corn for sweetener.

The ASA has long endorsed the goal of global free trade because U.S. sugar and corn sweetener producers are efficient by world standards and would welcome the opportunity to compete on a genuine level playing field. Until that free trade goal is achieved, however, the United States must retain at least the minimal sugar policy now in place to prevent foreign subsidized, dump market sugar from unfairly displacing efficient American producers. This policy was substantially modified by Congress in the 1996 Farm Bill, but remains highly beneficial to American taxpayers and consumers.

While the ASA supports the goal of free trade, we have serious concerns about past agreements and about the structure of future multilateral or regional trade agreements. Listed below are our specific recommendations regarding negotiations of the World Trade Organization and the Free Trade Area of the Americas, followed by some background on the United States' role and standing in the world sugar economy and our evaluation of the effects of past multilateral and regional trade agreements on the world sugar market and on our industry.