

Public

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CAMARA DE INDUSTRIALES CITRICOS DE LA ARGENTINA

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31 March 1999

Ms. Kathryn McCallion
Chairwoman
Committee on Government Representatives on
the Participation of Civil Society of the
Free Trade Area of the Americas

c/o Ms. Ines Bustillo
Director
United Nations Economic Commission for
Latin America and the Caribbean
1825 K Street, NW, Suite 1120
Washington, D.C. 20006

**RE: ELIMINATION OF TARIFFS FOR FROZEN LEMON
JUICE CONCENTRATE (FLJC) IN THE AMERICAS**

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

Pursuant to the public invitation made to civil society by the Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) to submit comments on trade matters related to the FTAA process, using the San Jose Ministerial Declaration as the frame of reference, the Citrus Processors Association of Argentina (CICA) hereby submits the following comments:

CICA is the main trade association representing the interests of the largest and most important citrus processors in Argentina.

CICA supports the FTAA efforts to unite the economies of the Western Hemisphere into a single free trade arrangement in which barriers to trade in goods and services and investment will be progressively eliminated.

In this regard, and in the spirit of the San Jose Ministerial Declaration, we respectfully request that all tariffs on Frozen Lemon Juice Concentrate (FLJC) in the Americas be eliminated by the FTAA.

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Currently, several countries in the Americas impose high tariffs for imports of FLJC. For example, the United States maintains the highest tariff for imports of FLJC in the Americas. This unreasonably high tariff (*HTS of the United States 2009.30.60.20*) currently stands at 8.125 cents per liter or approximately 40 percent of the current value of the imported product to the Unites States.

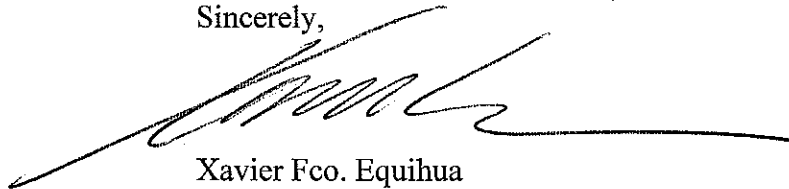
In keeping with the FTAA process and the San Jose Ministerial Declaration, CICA strongly believes that it is important for the FTAA to eliminate unfair and unreasonably high tariffs in agricultural trade in the Americas -- such as in the case of the U.S. tariff for FLJC. CICA also believes that the FTAA should not erect new barriers to trade, or replace current tariffs with tariff rate quotas or other creative barriers.

CICA would also like to take this opportunity to support the inclusion in the FTAA of procedures that could enhance the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the World Trade Organization in order to achieve better disciplines and greater transparency in SPS matters in the region.

It is our hope that the Committee on Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society will transmit these comments to the Trade Ministers of the FTAA for their consideration during the next Trade Ministerial Meeting of the Americas in October 1999 in Canada.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Xavier Fco. Equihua
U.S. Representative
CICA

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