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The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Portman:

I wish to express my warmest congratulations to you and your USTR colleagues on the conclusion of the Agreement in Principle between the United States and Vietnam on its accession to the World Trade Organization. This agreement is not only a milestone in the bilateral relationship between our two countries, but it also signifies Vietnam's commitment to meaningful reform and to full integration into the rules-based global trading system. It offers tremendous opportunities for our private sectors, as well as our citizens, to work more closely during the years ahead to achieve Vietnam's long-term development objectives. The agreement represents yet another solid accomplishment by able US negotiators that will benefit America's companies, farmers, workers and consumers.

As you know, Citigroup has operated in Vietnam for the past decade, and we are truly excited by the promise WTO accession will bring to the country's investment environment and to the financial sector in particular. We have appreciated the opportunity to help increase foreign direct investment in Vietnam and its access to international capital markets. Citigroup looks forward to working with Vietnam to facilitate equitization of banks and state-owned enterprises and to further expand the country's international capital market profile. We remain deeply committed to the strengthening of Vietnam's financial sector architecture and to building upon Citigroup's already robust training, philanthropic, and social development activities in Vietnam.

Mr. Ambassador, Citigroup will actively engage the United States Congress during the critical weeks ahead, to encourage timely approval of this historic agreement. As Vietnam has heightened its regional leadership, I believe that we should strive to complete the formal WTO accession process prior to the APEC Leaders meeting this fall. We look forward to our continued close collaboration with USTR to realize this important goal.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles Prince".