



**SSAMarine**  
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July 10, 2006

The Honorable Probert J. Portman  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

The Honorable Susan C. Schwab  
Deputy United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassadors Portman and Schwab:

On behalf of SSA Marine, I would like to congratulate you and the USTR team for successfully finalizing the U.S. – Vietnam Bilateral Agreement. This is a very important step for both countries. Vietnam's entry into WTO will increase trade and investment between our two countries. SSA Marine fully supports Vietnam's commitment to a market economy and membership in the WTO.

SSA Marine, the largest U.S. marine terminal operator, has been working in Vietnam for the past 10 years. We are in the process of developing new container terminals in both North and South Vietnam, with total investment of approximately \$500,000. Vietnam's accession to WTO will support our forecast's for Vietnam's economic growth as well as provide additional WTO provision benefits such as dispute settlement, customs enforcement and reduced duties.

We look forward to working with your office as Congress considers Vietnam's WTC accession.

Sincerely,

Bob Watters  
Vice President  
Managing Director - Asia