

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**[Declaration of Disaster #3538]****State of Florida**

Citrus, Manatee, and Pasco counties and the contiguous counties of De Soto, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Levy, Marion, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, and Sumter in the State of Florida constitute a disaster area due to damages caused by heavy rains and flooding beginning June 19 and continuing through August 21, 2003. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on October 27, 2003, and for economic injury until the close of business on May 28, 2004, at the address listed below or other locally announced locations:

U.S. Small Business Administration,
Disaster Area 2 Office, One Baltimore
Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30308.
The interest rates are:

	Percent
For Physical Damage:	
Homeowners With Credit Available Elsewhere	5.625
Homeowners Without Credit Available Elsewhere	2.812
Businesses With Credit Available Elsewhere	5.906
Businesses and Non-profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere	2.953
Others (Including Non-profit Organizations) With Credit Available Elsewhere	5.500
For Economic Injury:	
Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives Without Credit Available Elsewhere ...	2.953

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 353806 and the number for economic injury is 9W7800.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: August 28, 2003.

Hector V. Barreto,
Administrator.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**Trade Policy Staff Committee; Request for Public Comment on Review of Employment Impact of United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement**

AGENCIES: Office of the United States Trade Representative; Department of Labor.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) gives notice that the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and the Department of Labor (Labor) are initiating a review of the impact of the proposed U.S.-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on United States employment, including labor markets. This notice seeks written public comment on potentially significant sectoral or regional employment impacts (both positive and negative) in the United States as well as other likely labor market impacts of the FTA.

DATES: USTR and Labor will accept any comments received during the course of the negotiations of the FTA. However, comments should be received by noon, October 1, 2003, to be assured of timely consideration in the preparation of the report.

ADDRESSES: Submissions by electronic mail: FR0095@ustr.gov. Submissions by facsimile: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, at (202) 395-6143.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning public comments, contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, TPSC, Office of the USTR, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, telephone (202) 395-3475. Substantive questions concerning the employment impact review should be addressed to Jorge Perez-Lopez, Director, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20210, telephone (202) 693-4883; or William Clatanoff, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Labor, telephone (202) 395-6120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**1. Background Information**

On August 4, 2003, in accordance with section 2104(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002, the United States Trade Representative notified the Congress of the President's intent to initiate a free trade agreement with Bahrain. The notification letters to the Congress can be found on the USTR Web site at <http://www.ustr.gov/new/fta/Bahrain/2003-08-04-notification-house.pdf> and <http://www.ustr.gov/new/fta/Bahrain/2003-08-04-notification-senate.pdf> respectively. On August 13, 2003 the USTR requested the ITC provide advice on the probable economic effects. The ITC intends to provide this advice within four months of receipt of the request. We intend to launch negotiations in January 2004.

The FTA will build on the Middle East Free Trade Area, which includes

the Jordan and Morocco FTAs. By moving from unilateral trade preferences to a reciprocal trade agreement, the FTA will seek to eliminate duties and unjustified barriers to trade in both U.S.- and Bahrain-origin goods and also address trade in services, trade in agricultural products, investment, trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights, government procurement, trade-related environmental and labor matters, and other issues. The FTA is expected to contribute to stronger economies, the rule of law, sustainable development, and more accountable institutions of governance, complementing ongoing domestic, bilateral, and multilateral efforts in the region. Finally, the FTA will lend momentum to building a Middle East Free Trade Area.

2. Employment Impact Review

Section 2102(c)(5) of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002, 19 U.S.C. 3802(c)(5), directs the President to "review the impact of future trade agreements on United States employment, including labor markets, modeled after Executive Order 13141 to the extent appropriate in establishing procedures and criteria, report to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate on such review, and make that report available to the public." USTR and the Department of Labor will conduct the employment reviews through the TPSC.

The employment impact review will be based on the following elements, which are modeled to the extent appropriate after those in EO 13141. The review will be: (1) Written; (2) initiated through a **Federal Register** notice soliciting public comment and information on the employment impact of the FTA in the United States; (3) made available to the public in draft form for public comment, to the extent practicable; and (4) made available to the public in final form.

Comments may be submitted on potentially significant sectoral or regional employment impacts (both positive and negative) in the United States as well as other likely labor market impacts of the FTA. Persons submitting comments should provide as much detail as possible in support of their submissions.

3. Requirements for Submissions

To ensure prompt and full consideration of responses, the TPSC strongly recommends that interested persons submit comments by electronic mail to the following e-mail address: