

## Freedom of Information Request

From: Chelsea Masters  
American University, Washington College of Law  
4801 Massachusetts Ave., NW Washington, DC 20016

To: Jacqueline B. Caldwell, FOIA Officer  
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20508

DATE: March 26, 2012

I, Chelsea Masters, a student at American University Washington College of Law, respectfully request, under 5 USC §552, access to (or a copy of) all records starting at January 1, 2000 to present regarding meetings between the Special 301 Committee and industry representatives. I wish to request:

any information, correspondence, and documents relating to how meetings between USTR staff on the Special 301 Committee and industry representatives (members of trade associations, coalitions, or individual companies) comply with the FOIA open meetings law (5 USC §552b).

I request a waiver of fees because this inquiry regards information necessary for an ongoing research project at American University Washington College of Law, an educational institution as defined under 15 CFR §2004.9. My interest in these records is not primarily commercial and will be used for research purposes. Likewise, disclosure of the information will contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government because our purpose is to publically and accurately convey how the Special 301 process works in practice. The final product will be disseminated via the web and will likely be used in subsequently published research papers.

I will expect a response within 20 working days as provided by law. If my request is denied in whole or in part, I expect a detailed justification for withholding the records. I also request any segregable portions that are not exempt to be disclosed.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

June 13, 2012

Ms. Chelsea Masters  
American University  
Washington College of Law  
4801 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Ms. Masters:

This letter is the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) final response to your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, for:

“[A]ll records starting at January 1, 2000 to present regarding meetings between the Special 301 Committee and industry representatives . . . [specifically,] any information, correspondence, and documents relating to how meetings between USTR staff on the Special 301 Committee and industry representatives (members of trade associations, coalitions, or individual companies) comply with the FOIA open meetings law (5 USC 552b).”

After conducting a search of its files, USTR found no documents within the scope of your request.

Because this is USTR's final response, your case in this office is now closed. Under 15 C.F.R § 2004.6(d), if you are not satisfied with this decision, then within sixty (60) days you may appeal it in writing to:

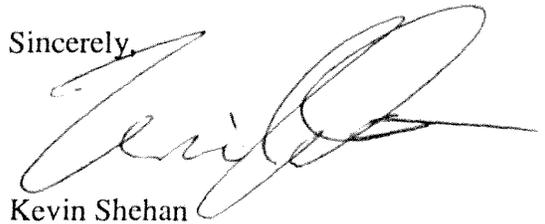
FOIA Appeals Committee  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
1724 F Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked: “Freedom of Information Act Appeal.” In the event you are dissatisfied with the results of any such appeal, judicial review will thereafter be available to you in the United States District Court for the judicial district in which you reside or have your principal place of business, or in the District of Columbia, where we searched for responsive records.

Ms. Chelsea Masters  
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Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the FOIA office at (202) 395-3419.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Shehan', written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Shehan  
Attorney Advisor

**Case File# 12042023**