



MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

February 4, 2016

Ms. Barbara Weisel
Assistant United States Trade Representative
for Southeast Asia and the Pacific
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ms. Weisel,

I have the honor to refer to the following understanding between representatives of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (Viet Nam) and the Government of the United States of America (United States) reached during the negotiations on Section E (Geographical Indications) of Chapter 18 (Intellectual Property) of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP Agreement):

Viet Nam and the United States confirm their understanding that from the date of confirmation of the Agreed Minute by the TPP Chief Negotiators until the date of entry into force of the TPP Agreement for each Party, each Government will take all measures within its legal authority to prevent any action that may be contrary to the object and purpose of Article 18.36 (International Agreements), which relates to the protection or recognition of geographical indications under international agreements.

I have the further honor to propose that this letter and your letter in reply confirming that your Government shares this understanding shall constitute an agreement between Viet Nam and the United States, which shall enter into force on the date of your letter in reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Khanh', followed by a long horizontal line.

Tran Quoc Khanh
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Industry and Trade
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

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

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Tran Quoc Khanh
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Industry and Trade
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Dear Deputy Minister Khanh:

I am pleased to acknowledge your letter of February 4, 2016, which reads as follows:

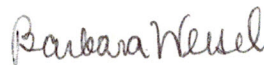
“I have the honor to refer to the following understanding between representatives of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (Viet Nam) and the Government of the United States of America (United States) reached during the negotiations on Section E (Geographical Indications) of Chapter 18 (Intellectual Property) of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP Agreement):

Viet Nam and the United States confirm their understanding that from the date of confirmation of the Agreed Minute by the TPP Chief Negotiators until the date of entry into force of the TPP Agreement for each Party, each Government will take all measures within its legal authority to prevent any action that may be contrary to the object and purpose of Article 18.36 (International Agreements), which relates to the protection or recognition of geographical indications under international agreements.

I have the further honor to propose that this letter and your letter in reply confirming that your Government shares this understanding shall constitute an agreement between Viet Nam and the United States, which shall enter into force on the date of your letter in reply.”

I have the honor to confirm that my Government shares this understanding, and that your letter and this letter in reply shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments, which shall enter into force on this date.

Sincerely,



Barbara Weisel