Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman on the Establishment of a Free Trade Area

The Government of the United States of America (hereinafter "the United States") and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman (hereinafter "Oman") (together referred to as "Parties", and individually as "Party"),

<u>Recognizing</u> the strong bonds of friendship between them and wishing to strengthen their economic relations;

<u>Recognizing</u> that open and competitive markets are key drivers of economic efficiency, innovation, and growth;

<u>Desiring</u> to create new employment opportunities and raise the standard of living for their citizens by liberalizing and expanding trade between them;

Desiring to enhance the competitiveness of their enterprises in global markets;

<u>Desiring</u> to establish clear and mutually advantageous rules governing their trade;

<u>Building</u> on their rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement and other agreements to which both Parties are party;

<u>Affirming</u> their commitment to transparency and their desire to eliminate bribery and corruption in international trade and investment;

<u>Desiring</u> to foster creativity and innovation, improve technology, and enhance the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights;

<u>Desiring</u> to protect, enhance, and enforce basic workers' rights and to strengthen the development and enforcement of labor laws and policies;

<u>Desiring</u> to strengthen the development and enforcement of environmental laws and policies, promote sustainable development, and implement this Agreement in a manner consistent with the objectives of environmental protection and conservation;

<u>Affirming</u> their support for the participation of the Parties in the establishment of an expanded free trade area in the Middle East that would contribute to economic liberalization and development in the region;

Have <u>agreed</u> as follows: