

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

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----- Office of the Secretary Int'l Trade Commission

JAN 09 2012

The Honorable Deanna Tanner Okun
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chairman Okun:

The National Strategy for Electronics Stewardship, which was developed by an interagency task force, sets forth recommendations for better management of electronics throughout product lifecycles. One of the recommendations is to improve information on trade flows of used electronic products. Better data are needed to create a clear picture of trade flows, which will enhance the understanding of the U.S. government and stakeholders of trade in used electronic products.

Pursuant to authority delegated by the President to the United States Trade Representative (USTR) under Section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, I request that the U.S. International Trade Commission (Commission) undertake a study and prepare a report that describes U.S. exports of used electronic products, such as audio and visual equipment, computers and peripheral equipment, digital imaging devices, telecommunication equipment, and component parts of these products. Additional electronic products may be included in the report as the Commission deems relevant. The report should be based on a review of available data and other information, including primary data collected through a survey of enterprises engaged in exporting used electronic products from the United States. The Commission's report should cover 2011, or the latest year data are available, and, to the extent practicable, include information on the following:

- the type, volume, and value of, and foreign markets of significance for, exports of used electronic products from the United States;
- the forms and activities, with respect to used electronic products, of enterprises receiving U.S. exporters' shipments, most common end uses of exports in the foreign market (i.e., further processing, final disposal, etc.), and the extent of cross-border, intra-firm shipments by U.S. exporters;
- the characteristics of used electronic products exported from the United States, including product condition (e.g., working, non-working, remanufacturable, refurbishable, repairable), composition of shipments (single product type, multiple product types), and the extent to which exports are processed (broken down or stripped), or remain intact prior to exportation; and

- the forms, activities and characteristics of domestic exporting enterprises (e.g., original equipment manufacturers, remanufacturers, refurbishers, brokers, recyclers, non-profits, etc.) including the extent to which the exporter is foreign-invested.

In addition, USTR would benefit from information, to the extent it is available, on the following:

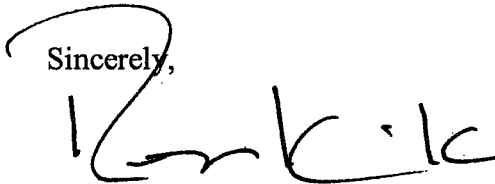
- the relative share of sales by U.S. companies of used electronic products that are (1) exported, (2) sold to firms in the United States, (3) processed by the exporter itself, and (4) disposed of by the exporter itself.
- the factors affecting trade in used electronic products.

I am requesting that the Commission deliver this report no later than 13 months from the date of receipt of this letter.

I anticipate that the Commission's report will be made available to the public in its entirety. Therefore, the report should not contain any confidential business or national security information.

The Commission's assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Kirk', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

Ambassador Ron Kirk