

the principal office of the Phlx. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-Phlx-2001-61 and should be submitted by September 19, 2001.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>15</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### [Public Notice 3538]

#### Department of State Performance Review Board Members (At-Large Board)

In accordance with Section 4314(c)(4) of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-454), the Executive Resources Board of the Department of State has appointed the following individuals to the Department of State Performance Review Board (At-Large Board) register:

Samuel M. Witten, Assistant Legal Advisor for Law Enforcement and Intelligence, Office of the Legal Advisor, Department of State

Patrick R. Hayes, Executive Director, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Department of State

LeRoy Lowery, III, Senior Inspector, Office of the Inspector General, Department of State

Frank E. Moss, Executive Director, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State

Brenda Saunders Sprague, Director, Office of Language Services, Bureau of Administration, Department of State

Christopher Flags, Director, Domestic Financial Service, Bureau of Finance and Management Policy, Department of State

Dated: August 14, 2001.

**Alex De La Garza,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Human Resources, Department of State.*

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## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

### Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC): Request for Identification of Private Sector Experts In Electronic Commerce Who May Wish To Participate in the Work of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Joint Government-Private Sector Committee of Experts on Electronic Commerce (Joint E-Commerce Committee)

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Request for identification of private sector experts on electronic commerce.

**SUMMARY:** The TPSC seeks to identify U.S. private sector experts on issues related to electronic commerce who may be interested in participating in the work of the FTAA Joint E-Commerce Committee. Interested members of the public are invited to submit written notice of their interest and their qualifications.

**DATES:** Written expressions of interest in participating in the work of the Joint Committee should be submitted no later than noon on September 13, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Expressions of interest (original plus 20 copies) should be submitted to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 1724 F St., Fifth Floor, NW, Washington, D.C., 20508. Attn: FTAA Joint E-Commerce Committee-Private Sector Participation.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For procedural questions concerning public comments, contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-3475. All other questions concerning the Joint E-Commerce Committee may be directed to Walter Bastian, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere, U.S. Department of Commerce (202) 482-4325, Walter\_Bastian@ita.doc.gov.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### 1. Background

At the Second Summit of the Americas in April 1998, in Santiago, Chile, the 34 democratically-elected Western Hemisphere leaders initiated negotiations to create the FTAA no later than the year 2005. They established nine negotiating groups, a consultative group, and two non-negotiating committees, one of which is the Joint E-Commerce Committee, which began its

work in August 1998. The trade ministers mandated that both government and private sector experts meet as the Joint E-Commerce Committee to make recommendations on how to increase and broaden the benefits of electronic commerce; the Joint E-Commerce Committee is not a negotiating group.

During 1998-1999, the Government of Barbados chaired the Joint E-Commerce Committee. During 2000-2001, a Uruguayan private sector representative chaired. The Government of Canada is currently chairing the Committee through October 2002 with a Peruvian private sector representative serving as Vice Chair. Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for the Western Hemisphere, Walter Bastian, is leading the U.S. Government-private sector delegation to the Joint E-Commerce Committee.

**Status of Work in the Joint Committee:** At each of the past two FTAA Ministerial meetings, in Toronto, Canada in November 1999 and Buenos Aires, Argentina in April 2001, trade ministers received, and released to the public, reports prepared by the Joint E-Commerce Committee reflecting the culmination of its discussions over the preceding 18 months on a broad range of electronic commerce issues. The Joint E-Commerce Committee's recommendations on increasing and broadening the benefits of electronic commerce were drafted with the full participation of government and private sector experts from every region in the Hemisphere. FTAA trade ministers committed to share the report and its recommendations with other relevant authorities within their governments. They also instructed the Joint E-Commerce Committee to continue its work as a non-negotiating group and produce further recommendations over the next 18-month period. The "Second Report with Recommendations to Ministers April 9, 2001," is available in English and Spanish on the USTR website ([www.ustr.gov](http://www.ustr.gov)), the official FTAA website (<http://www.ftaa-alca.org>) and the U.S. Government Electronic Commerce website (<http://www.ecommerce.gov>).

The Joint E-Commerce Committee met most recently on July 23-24, 2001 in Panama City, Panama. At this meeting, the Joint E-Commerce Committee's government and private sector representatives identified issues to be discussed during the next phase of its work. Over the next year, the Joint E-Commerce Committee will focus on the digital divide (including issues related to access and infrastructure, small and medium sized enterprises, education

<sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).