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Schwab Welcomes Nomination of Ellen Terpstra as Chief Agricultural Negotiator

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Trade Representative Susan C. Schwab praised President Bush's nomination of Ellen Terpstra to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

"Ellen's background and expertise on agricultural trade issues makes her an ideal candidate for this crucial position and I am thrilled to welcome her back to USTR" said Ambassador Susan Schwab. "With her previous experience as head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, Ellen brings the perspective needed to manage several key priorities including pending free trade agreements, and opening additional markets to U.S. agricultural exports and addressing creeping protectionism abroad through use of sanitary and phytosanitary barriers to trade. I look forward to her swift confirmation by the Senate."

As Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Ms. Terpstra will replace Dr. Richard Crowder and will be responsible for directing U.S. agricultural trade negotiations. At the multilateral level, Ms. Terpstra will work closely with Dr. Joe Glauber, who will continue in his role as U.S. Special Doha Envoy, to bring the Doha Round to a successful conclusion.

Ms. Terpstra currently serves as deputy under secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. In this capacity, she is responsible for providing leadership to agencies and programs within the Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services mission area. Previously, Ms. Terpstra was the head of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), which oversees and coordinates all of the Department's international activities. Outside of USDA, Ms. Terpstra previously served in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative as a trade negotiator and policy coordinator. Ms. Terpstra's private sector experience includes work as president and chief executive officer of the USA Rice Federation and president of the U.S. Apple Association. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

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