



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

March 9, 2009

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

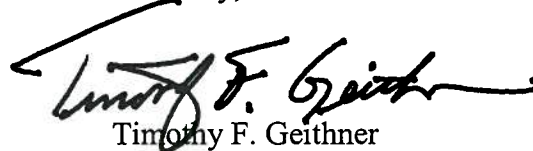
Dear Senator Menendez:

You have expressed concerns to me about provisions of H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill, regarding Cuba sanctions. You have also shared your views regarding Section 620 of the bill, which relates specifically to travel to Cuba for the commercial sales of agricultural and medical goods pursuant to the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000.

Section 620 would be administered by the Department of the Treasury. The regulations promulgated pursuant to that provision would provide that the representatives of only a narrow class of businesses would be eligible, under a new general license, to travel to Cuba to market and sell agricultural and medical goods. Any business using the general license would be required to provide both advance written notice outlining the purpose and scope of the planned travel and, upon return, a report outlining the activities conducted, including the persons with whom they met, the expenses incurred, and business conducted in Cuba. All travelers who take advantage of the general license would also have their daily expenses limited to the then-applicable State Department *per diem* rate.

It is my hope that this letter has assisted you in understanding how the Treasury Department would implement Section 620 of H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill. If there is anything that I can do to be of assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Timothy F. Geithner

cc: The Honorable Bill Nelson