

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20436

Investigation No. 332-352

Andean Trade Preference Act: Impact on U.S. Industries and Consumers and on Drug Crop Eradication and Crop Substitution

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity to submit information relating to matters to be addressed in the Commission's 18th report on the impact of the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA).

SUMMARY: Section 206 of the ATPA (19 U.S.C. 3204) requires the Commission to report biennially to the Congress and the President by September 30 of each reporting year on the economic impact of the Act on U.S. industries and U.S. consumers, and on the effectiveness of the Act in promoting drug-related crop eradication and crop substitution efforts by beneficiary countries. The Commission prepares these reports under investigation No. 332-352, *Andean Trade Preference Act: Impact on U.S. Industries and Consumers and on Drug Crop Eradication and Crop Substitution*.

DATES:

August 16, 2018: Deadline for filing written submissions.

September 30, 2018: Transmittal of Commission report to Congress.

ADDRESSES: All Commission offices, including the Commission's hearing rooms, are located in the United States International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC. All written submissions should be addressed to the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436. The public record for this investigation may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <https://edis.usitc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information specific to this investigation may be obtained from Edward Wilson, Project Leader, Office of Economics (edward.wilson@usitc.gov or 202-205-3268). For information on the legal aspects of this investigation, contact William Gearhart of the Commission's Office of the General Counsel (william.gearhart@usitc.gov or 202-205-3091). The media should contact Peg O'Laughlin, Office of External Relations (margaret.olaughlin@usitc.gov or 202-205-1819). Hearing-impaired individuals may obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal at 202-205-1810. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (<https://www.usitc.gov/>). Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000.

BACKGROUND: Section 206 of the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) (19 U.S.C. 3204) requires that the Commission submit biennial reports to the Congress and the President regarding the economic impact of the Act on U.S. industries and consumers and, in conjunction with other agencies, the effectiveness of the Act in promoting drug-related crop eradication and crop substitution efforts of the beneficiary countries. Section 206(b) of the Act requires that each report include:

- (1) The actual effect of ATPA on the U.S. economy generally as well as on specific domestic industries which produce articles that are like, or directly competitive with, articles being imported under the Act from beneficiary countries;
- (2) The probable future effect that ATPA will have on the U.S. economy generally and on such domestic industries; and
- (3) The estimated effect that ATPA has had on drug-related crop eradication and crop substitution efforts of beneficiary countries.

Under the statute the Commission is required to prepare this report regardless of whether preferential treatment was provided during the period covered by the report. The President's authority to provide preferential treatment under ATPA expired on July 31, 2013. During the period to be covered by this report, calendar years 2016 and 2017, no imports entering the United States should have received preferential treatment under the ATPA program.

The Commission will submit its report by September 30, 2018. The initial notice announcing institution of this investigation for the purpose of preparing these reports was published in the *Federal Register* of March 10, 1994 (59 FR 11308). Notice providing opportunity to file written submissions in connection with the seventeenth report was published in the *Federal Register* of August 23, 2016 (81 FR 57613).

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: Interested parties are invited to file written submissions concerning this investigation. All written submissions should be addressed to the Secretary, and should be received not later than 5:15 p.m., August 16, 2018. All written submissions must conform with the provisions of section 201.8 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 201.8). Section 201.8 and the Commission's Handbook on Filing Procedures https://www.usitc.gov/secretary/documents/handbook_on_filing_procedures.pdf require that interested parties file documents electronically on or before the filing deadline and submit eight (8) true paper copies by 12:00 p.m. eastern time on the next business day. In the event that confidential treatment of a document is requested, interested parties must file, at the same time as the eight paper copies, at least four (4) additional true paper copies in which the confidential information must be deleted (see the following paragraph for further information regarding confidential business information). Persons with questions regarding electronic filing should contact the Office of the Secretary, Docket Services Division (202-205-1802).

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION. Any submissions that contain confidential business information must also conform to the requirements of section 201.6 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 201.6). Section 201.6 of the rules requires that the cover of the document and the individual pages be clearly marked as to whether they are the "confidential" or "non-confidential" version, and that the confidential business information is clearly identified by means of brackets. All written submissions, except for confidential business information, will be made available for inspection by interested parties.

The Commission will not include any confidential business information in the report that it sends to the Congress or the President or that it makes available to the public. However, all information, including confidential business information, submitted in this investigation may be disclosed to and used: (i) by the Commission, its employees and offices, and contract personnel (a) for developing or maintaining the records of this or a related proceeding, or (b) in internal investigations, audits, reviews, and evaluations relating to the programs, personnel, and operations of the Commission including under 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3; or (ii) by U.S. government employees and contract personnel for cybersecurity purposes.

The Commission will not otherwise disclose any confidential business information in a manner that would reveal the operations of the firm supplying the information.

SUMMARIES OF WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: The Commission intends to publish summaries of the positions of interested persons. Persons wishing to have a summary of their position included in the report should include a summary with their written submission. The summary may not exceed 500 words, should be in MSWord format or a format that can be easily converted to MSWord, and should not include any confidential business information. The summary will be published as provided if it meets these requirements and is germane to the subject matter of the investigation. The Commission will identify the name of the organization furnishing the summary and will include a link to the Commission's Electronic Document Information System (EDIS) where the full written submission can be found.

By order of the Commission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa R. Barton', written in a cursive style.

Lisa R. Barton,
Secretary to the Commission

Issued: July 30, 2018