



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

December 7, 2005
(House)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY
H.R. 4340 - United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act
(Rep. Blunt (R) MO and Rep. Rangel (D) NY)

The Administration strongly supports H.R. 4340, which will approve and implement the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement (FTA or Agreement), as signed by the United States and Bahrain on September 14, 2004.

The United States-Bahrain FTA advances U.S. national economic interests and meets the negotiating principles and objectives set out by the Congress in the Trade Act of 2002. The Agreement enhances our bilateral relationship with a strategic friend and ally in the Middle East region and will promote economic growth and prosperity in both nations.

The Agreement provides for increased access to Bahrain's markets for U.S. industrial, consumer, and agricultural goods. The Agreement is also one of the most comprehensive ever negotiated to reduce barriers to trade in services and will create new opportunities for U.S. services firms. Pursuant to the Agreement, Bahrain will provide strong protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, ensure that rules on electronic commerce are non-discriminatory, and reinforce legislative actions to expand democracy and improve the protection of worker rights, including trade union rights.

The United States-Bahrain FTA provides an important opportunity to encourage economic development in a moderate Muslim nation that is a leader of reform in the Gulf region. The Agreement is a significant step in implementing the President's plan for a broader Middle East Free Trade Area.

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