

NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL, INC.

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NFTC Study Highlighted on U.S. State Department Website

*Looking Behind the Curtain: The Growth of Trade Barriers that Ignore Sound Science
Sent to every US embassy*

Washington, D.C. – Impressed with the arguments made and detailed evidence offered by the recently released National Foreign Trade Council white paper *Looking Behind the Curtain: The Growth of Trade Barriers that Ignore Sound Science*, on May 7th the U.S. State Department's International Information Programs administrators posted the study's Executive Summary to the site's "Latest" news page. It has also been posted on the site's more detailed section addressing biotechnology.

Recognizing the importance of keeping its representatives abroad apprised of the latest on issues relating to trade, the U.S. State Department maintains a website which posts relevant studies, the text of speeches and other timely information. Regularly updated, the International Information Programs website is accessed by U.S. embassy officers daily. It is also a resource available to international media.

Motivated by the alarming increase in trade barriers that ignore sound science, *Looking Behind the Curtain: The Growth of Trade Barriers that Ignore Sound Science* details a broad range of examples of trade barriers that are not based on sound science or subject to rational and balanced risk assessment, do not adhere to internationally agreed upon standards.

It offers powerful evidence of a deliberate strategy to invoke the need for 'precaution' in order to protect ailing or lagging industries and block market access.

According to the NFTC paper, impacted products include:

- Beef and poultry
- Fresh and processed fruits and nuts
- Food additives, vitamins and nutrients
- Wines
- Foods derived through the application of biotechnology
- Aeronautics
- Automobiles
- Consumer electronics
- Computers

- Chemicals and downstream users including textiles, plastics, and finished consumer goods
- Toiletries and cosmetics
- Household and industrial biocidal products

NFTC released this paper at May 6th panel discussion featuring speakers from the United States Trade Representative's Office, the European Community delegation, and Mexico.

The International Information Programs website can be accessed at <http://usinfo.state.gov>. The Executive Summary can be reached by clicking on "Latest" or by accessing the biotechnology issue area at <http://usinfo.state.gov/topical/global/biotech>. For a full copy of the NFTC paper, please see the NFTC's website at www.nftc.org.

The National Foreign Trade Council is a leading business organization advocating an open, rules-based global trading system. Founded in 1914 by a broad-based group of American companies, the NFTC now serves 400 member companies through its offices in Washington and New York.

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Lawrence.

Go to <http://usinfo.state.gov/> and click on "Latest."

Also <http://usinfo.state.gov/topical/global/biotech/> will take you to the biotech page. The article should be up between 4:30 and 5.

Thanks for your help.

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