

at <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/rfgps/>.

For Further Information Contact:

Mailing address: United States Department of State, SA-44, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges (ECA/PE/C), Room 220, Washington, DC 20547, attn: ICPP Fellows Program ECA/PE/C-02-27. Tel: (202) 205-3003; Fax: 202-619-4350; E-mail: kturner@pd.state.gov.

Interested applicants may request a copy of the Application

Package. Please specify: "ICPP Fellows Program ECA/PE/C-02-27" on all inquiries and correspondence. All potential applicants should read the complete announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals.

Review Process

The Bureau will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Solicitation Package. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the program office, as well as the Public Affairs Sections of the U.S. embassies overseas, where appropriate. Eligible proposals will be forwarded to panels of ECA officers for advisory review. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the Legal Adviser or by other Department elements. Final funding decisions are at the discretion of the Department of State's Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards resides with ECA's Grants Officer.

Submissions

Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package (RFGP, POGI, PSI). The applicant's original proposal and ten (10) copies should be sent to: U.S. Department of State, Ref.: ECA/PE/C-02-27, Program Management, ECA/EX/PM, Room 534, 301 4th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20547.

Applicants must also submit the "Executive Summary," "Proposal Narrative" and "Budget" sections of the proposal on a 3.5" diskette. The Bureau will transmit these files electronically to the Public Affairs Sections at the U.S. Embassies for review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get embassy comments for the Bureau's grants review process. Once the RFGP deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. Proposals should adequately address each area of review. These criteria are not rank ordered and all are given equal weight.

1. Quality of the Program Idea
2. Program Planning and Ability to Achieve Objectives
3. Institutional Capacity
4. Cost Effectiveness and Cost Sharing
5. Program Evaluation
6. Multiplier Effect/Impact
7. Follow-on Activities
8. Support of Diversity

Applicants should refer to the POGI in the Solicitation Package for more detailed information on the review criteria.

Diversity, Freedom and Democracy Guidelines

Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including, but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle both in program administration and in program content. Please refer to the review criteria under the "Support for Diversity" section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal. Public Law 104-319 provides that "in carrying out programs of educational and cultural exchange in countries whose people do not fully enjoy freedom and democracy," the Bureau "shall take appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries." Public Law 106-113 requires that the governments of the countries described above do not have inappropriate influence in the selection process. Proposals should reflect advancement of these goals in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

Authority

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States

and the people of other countries * * *; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations * * * and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." The funding authority for the program above is provided through legislation.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFGP are binding and may not be modified by any Bureau representative. Explanatory information provided by the Bureau or program officers that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFGP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. Government. The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements. Organizations will be expected to cooperate with the Bureau in evaluating their programs under the principles of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993, which requires federal agencies to measure and report on the results of their programs and activities.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal U.S. Department of State procedures.

Dated: February 21, 2002.

Patricia S. Harrison,

Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 02-4854 Filed 2-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Negotiation of a U.S.-Singapore Free
Trade Agreement**

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of public hearings concerning negotiation of a U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement.

SUMMARY: This publication gives notice that the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) will conduct public hearings

concerning negotiation of a U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement.

DATES: A hearing will be held on Monday, April 1, 2002. Parties wishing to testify orally at the hearings must provide written notification of their intention by noon, Monday, March 18, 2002. Parties presenting oral testimony also must submit a written brief by noon Thursday, March 21, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning public comments or public hearings, contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, USTR, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, telephone (202) 395-3475. All other questions should be directed to Barbara Weisel, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Bilateral Asian Affairs, (202) 395-6813, or Will Martyn, Associate General Counsel, (202) 395-3582.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background

In November 2000, the United States and Singapore announced that they would enter into negotiations on a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA). Negotiations were launched in December 2000. In early 2001, the Bush Administration reaffirmed the United States' commitment to the negotiations. The parties expect that negotiations will intensify in the coming months.

As described in the previous notice, *see* 65 FR 71197, the United States and Singapore are seeking to eliminate duties and commercial barriers to bilateral trade in U.S. and Singaporean-origin goods. The agreement is also expected to include provisions on trade in services, investment, trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights, competition, government procurement, electronic commerce, trade-related environmental and labor matters, and other issues.

2. Public Comments and Testimony

In conformity with TPSC regulations (15 CFA part 2003), the Chairman of the TPSC invites written comments and/or oral testimony of interested persons in a public hearing on the economic effects of a U.S.-Singapore FTA.

Comments are invited particularly on:

(a) Economic costs and benefits to U.S. producers and consumers of removal of all tariff barriers to trade between Singapore and the United States, and in the case of articles for which immediate elimination of tariffs is not appropriate, the appropriate staging schedule for such elimination.

(b) Existing nontariff barriers to trade in goods between Singapore and the

United States and the economic costs and benefits to U.S. producers and consumers of removing those barriers.

(c) Existing restrictions on investment flows between Singapore and the United States and the costs and benefits to U.S. investors and consumers of eliminating any such restrictions.

(d) Any other matter relevant to the U.S.-Singapore FTA, including any other measures, policies, or practices of the Government of Singapore that should be addressed in the negotiations.

(e) Possible effects on basic workers' rights, working conditions, and living standards, as well as the possible environmental effects. Supplemental comments also are being requested on the scope of the environmental review of the proposed U.S.-Singapore FTA currently under negotiation. Persons who submit comments pursuant to the **Federal Register** Notice should not resubmit those comments for this proceeding.

3. Requests To Participate in Public Hearings

A hearing will be held on Monday, April 1, 2002 in Room 1 and 2, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508. Hearings will continue on succeeding days if necessary.

Parties wishing to testify orally at the hearings must provide written notification of their intention by noon, Monday, March 18, 2002 to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative. Requests should be made by e-mail to FR0017@ustr.gov or by fax to 202-395-5141, Attn: Gloria Blue. Notification may be submitted by mail to Gloria Blue, 1724 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20508. However, due to significant delays, we have no means of ensuring its timely receipt. The notification should include (1) the name, address, and telephone number of the person presenting the testimony; and (2) a brief summary of the presentation, including the product(s) (with HTSUS numbers), service sector(s), or other subjects to be discussed.

Parties presenting oral testimony also must submit by noon, Thursday, March 21, 2002 a written brief of that testimony. To ensure prompt receipt, the testimony should also be submitted electronically to FR0018@ustr.gov or by fax to (202) 395-5141, Attn: Gloria Blue (see note above on mail delivery). Remarks at the hearing should be limited to no more than five minutes to allow for possible questions from the Chairman and the interagency panel.

Those persons not wishing to participate in the hearing may submit

written comments no later than Friday, April 5, 2002. To ensure prompt receipt, comments should also be submitted by fax to (202) 395-5141, Attn: Gloria Blue or by e-mail to FR0019@ustr.gov (see note above on mail delivery). Comments should state clearly the position taken and should describe with particularity the evidence supporting that position.

Any notifications or briefs should be submitted in accordance with the instructions in section 4, below. The TPSC cannot guarantee receipt or consideration of any submissions that do not conform with those instructions.

4. Requirements for Submissions

Persons submitting a brief in response to this notice by electronic mail should transmit a copy electronically to FR0018@ustr.gov, with "Singapore FTA hearing" in the subject line. USTR encourages the submission of documents in Adobe PDF format, as attachments to an electronic mail. For any document containing business confidential information submitted by electronic transmission, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters "BC-", and the file name of the public version should begin with the characters "P-". The "P-" or "BC-" should be followed by the name of the submitter. Persons who make submissions by electronic mail should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. Similarly, to the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files.

Notifications and briefs will be placed in a file open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.5, except confidential business information exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6. Confidential business information submitted in accordance with 15 CFR 2006.6 must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" at the top of each page, including the cover letter or cover page, and must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. All public documents and nonconfidential summaries shall be available for public inspection in the USTR Reading Room. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is located in Room 3, First Floor, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 1724 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508. An appointment

to review the file may be made by calling (202) 395-6186.

Carmen Suro-Bredie,
Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.
[FR Doc. 02-4838 Filed 2-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary; Notice of Order Soliciting Community Proposals

AGENCY: Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of Order Soliciting Community Proposals (Order 2002-2-11), Docket OST-2002-11590.

SUMMARY: The Department of Transportation is instituting a new small community air service development program by soliciting an initial round of proposals from interested communities and consortiums of communities.

DATES: Proposals should be submitted no later than 60 days after the service date of Order 2002-2-11, April 22, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties should submit an original and five copies of their proposals, bearing the title "Proposal under the Small Community Air Service Development Pilot Program, Docket OST-2002-11590" as well as the name of the community or consortium of communities, and the legal sponsor, to the Docket Operations and Media Management Division, SVC-124, Room PL-401, Department of Transportation, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew C. Harris, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, Department of Transportation, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590 (202) 366-8822.

Dated: February 22, 2002.

Read C. Van de Water,
Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs.

[FR Doc. 02-4850 Filed 2-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety

standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

Lake Shore Railway Association

[Docket Number FRA-2002-11530]

The Lake Shore Railway Association (LSRX) seeks a waiver of compliance for locomotive number 13031, from the requirements of the *Safety Glazing Standards*, 49 CFR part 223, which requires certified glazing in all locomotive windows except those locomotives used in yard service and from the requirements of the *Railroad Safety Appliance Standards*, 49 CFR 231.30, which requires all locomotives used in switching service be equipped with four corner stairway openings and each stairway opening must be equipped with two vertical handholds. The waiver request is for a mid-cab locomotive built by General Electric in 1941-1942.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2002-11530) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 25, 2002.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,
Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 02-4767 Filed 2-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

Northeast Illinois Railroad Corporation

[Docket Number FRA-2002-11502]

The Northeast Illinois Railroad Corporation, doing business as Metra, has petitioned for a permanent waiver of compliance from the requirements of the *Fire Safety* standard, 49 CFR 238.103, which requires materials used on the passenger car meet the test performance criteria for flammability and smoke emission characteristics as specified in appendix B to this section. Metra stated that each of its current fleet of 781 bi-level gallery cars and 165 EMU cars has an emergency tool/first aid pocket that are located on both the "A" and "B" ends of the vehicle. The pockets are covered with acrylic for two reasons, *i.e.*, it affords rapid accessibility in case of an emergency as minimal blow is required to break the cover; and its transparency allows railroad to inspect the contents such as the fire extinguisher charge. Metra stated that the entire surface area of the acrylic is 160 square inches and the acrylic material does not meet the above-mentioned flammability and smoke emission standards. Metra also stated that it tried to consider an alternative material—Lexan, and found it unacceptable due to the reduced accessibility and cutting hazards when it is broken. Metra is in the process of ordering 300 new gallery and EMU cars.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver