

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

African Growth and Opportunity Act Implementation Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee; Public Comments on Annual Review of Country Eligibility for Benefits Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, Title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000

AGENCY: Office of the United States
Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and Request for
Comments.

SUMMARY: The African Growth and Opportunity Act Implementation Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (the "Subcommittee") is requesting written public comments for the annual review of the eligibility of sub-Saharan African countries to receive the benefits of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). This notice identifies the eligibility criteria that must be considered under AGOA, lists the sub-Saharan African countries that are currently eligible for AGOA, and the sub-Saharan African countries that are currently ineligible for the AGOA. The Subcommittee will consider any such comments in developing recommendations on country eligibility for the President. Comments received related to the child labor criteria may also be considered by the Secretary of Labor for the preparation of the Department of Labor's report on child labor as required under section 412(c) of the Trade and Development Act of 2000.

DATES: Public comments are due at USTR by noon, Monday, October 21, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submission by electronic mail: *FR0036@ustr.gov*. Submissions by facsimile: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, at (202) 395-6143. The public is strongly encouraged to submit documents electronically rather than by facsimile. See requirements for submissions below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions, please contact Gloria Blue, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Room F516, Washington, DC 20508, (202) 395-3475. All other questions should be directed to Constance Hamilton, Senior Director for African Affairs, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC, (202) 395-9514.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The AGOA amends Title V of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2461 *et seq.*) (the

"Trade Act") to authorize the President to designate sub-Saharan African countries as eligible for duty-free tariff treatment for certain products under the Generalized System of Preferences program (GSP). The AGOA also authorizes the President to designate sub-Saharan African countries as eligible for the preferential treatment the AGOA provides for certain textile and apparel articles. A beneficiary sub-Saharan African country may take advantage of the preferential treatment for certain textile and apparel articles only if it meets certain statutory requirements intended to prevent unlawful transshipment of such articles.

The President may designate a country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for both the additional GSP benefits and the textile and apparel benefits of the AGOA if he determines that the country meets the eligibility criteria set forth in: (1) Section 104 of the AGOA; and (2) section 502 of the Trade Act. To date, 36 countries have been designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. These countries, as well as the 12 currently ineligible countries are listed below. Section 506A of the Trade Act provides that the President shall monitor, review, and report to Congress annually on the progress of each sub-Saharan African country in meeting the foregoing eligibility criteria in order to determine the current or potential eligibility of each country to be designated as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country. The President's determinations will be included in the annual report submitted to Congress as required by Section 106 of the AGOA. Section 506A of the Trade Act and section 104 of the AGOA require that, if the President determines that an eligible sub-Saharan African country is not making continual progress in meeting the eligibility requirements, he must terminate the designation of the country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

The Subcommittee is seeking public comments in connection with the annual review of the eligibility of sub-Saharan African countries for the AGOA's benefits. The Subcommittee will consider any such comments in developing recommendations on country eligibility for the President. Comments related to the child labor criteria may also be considered by the Secretary of Labor in making the findings required under section 504 of the Trade Act.

Beneficiary Sub-Saharan African Countries

The following have been designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries:

Republic of Benin
Republic of Botswana
Republic of Cameroon
Republic of Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Republic of Chad
Republic of the Congo
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
Republic of Djibouti
State of Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gabonese Republic
Republic of Ghana
Republic of Guinea
Republic of Guinea-Bissau
Republic of Kenya
Kingdom of Lesotho
Republic of Madagascar
Republic of Malawi
Republic of Mali
Islamic Republic of Mauritania
Republic of Mauritius
Republic of Mozambique
Republic of Namibia
Republic of Niger
Federal Republic of Nigeria
Republic of Rwanda
Democratic Republic of São Tomé and
Príncipe
Republic of Senegal
Republic of Seychelles
Republic of Sierra Leone
Republic of South Africa
Kingdom of Swaziland
United Republic of Tanzania
Republic of Uganda
Republic of Zambia

Sub-Saharan African Countries Not Designated as Beneficiary Countries

The following have not been designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries:

Republic of Angola
Burkina Faso
Republic of Burundi
Democratic Republic of Congo
Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros
Republic of Equatorial Guinea
Republic of The Gambia
Republic of Liberia
Somalia
Republic of Togo
Republic of Sudan
Republic of Zimbabwe

Requirements for Submissions

In order to facilitate the prompt processing of submissions, the Office of the United States Trade Representative strongly urges and prefers electronic (e-mail) submissions to *FR0036@ustr.gov* in response to this notice. In the event

that an e-mail submission is impossible, submissions should be made by facsimile. Persons making submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: "2002 AGOA Annual Country Review" Documents should be submitted as either WordPerfect, MSWord, or text (.TXT) files. Supporting documentation submitted as spreadsheets are acceptable as Quattro Pro or Excel. For any document containing business confidential information submitted electronically, 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 e-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.

Written comments 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 2003.6 must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" at the top of each page, including any 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, by appointment only, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. An appointment to review the file may be made by calling (202) 395-6186. Appointments must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance.

Carmen Suro-Bredie,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

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BILLING CODE 3190-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Intent To Rule on Application 02-01-C-00-PIR To Impose and Use the Revenue From a Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) at Pierre Regional Airport, Pierre, SD

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent to rule on Application.

SUMMARY: The FAA proposes to rule and invites public comment on the application to impose and use the revenue from a PFC at Pierre Regional Airport under the provisions of the 49 U.S.C. 40117 and Part 158 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 158).

DATES: Comments must be received on or before date, which is 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this application may be mailed or delivered in triplicate to the FAA at the following address: Bismarck Airports District Office, 2301 University Drive, Building 23B, Bismarck, North Dakota 58504.

In addition, one copy of any comments submitted to the FAA must be mailed or delivered to Mr. Mason Short, Airport Director, of the City of Pierre, South Dakota at the following address: P.O. Box 1253, Pierre, South Dakota 57501.

Air carriers and foreign car carriers may submit copies of written comments previously provided to the City of Pierre, South Dakota under section 158.23 of Part 158.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Thomas T. Schauer, Program Manager, Bismarck Airports District Office, 2301 University Drive, Building 23B, Bismarck, North Dakota 58504, (701) 323-7380. The application may be reviewed in person at this same location.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FAA proposes to rule and invites public comment on the application to impose and use the revenue from a PFC at Pierre Regional Airport under the provisions of the 49 U.S.C. 40117 and Part 158 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 158).

On August 8, 2002, the FAA determined that the application to impose and use the revenue from a PFC submitted by City of Pierre, South Dakota was substantially complete within the requirements of section 158.25 of Part 158. The FAA will approve or disapprove the application, in whole or in part, no later than November 8, 2002.

The following is a brief overview of the application.

Proposed charge effective date: February 1, 2003.

Proposed charge expiration date: June 1, 2008.

Level of the proposed PFC: \$4.50.

Total estimated PFC revenue: \$366,239.

Brief description of proposed projects: Preparation of initial PFC, Rehabilitation of Runway 7/25, Taxiway "C" Re-construction, General Aviation Ramp Re-Construction, Snow Removal Equipment (Front End Loader and Truck), Passenger Loading Ramp, Air Carrier Terminal Apron/Rehabilitation, Update Airport Master Plan and Airport Layout Plan, Perimeter and Airport Boundary Fence, General Aviation Apron Improvements.

Any person may inspect the application in person at the FAA office listed above under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

In addition, any person may, upon request, inspect the application, notice and other documents germane to the application in person at the City of Pierre, South Dakota.

Issued in Des Plaines, Illinois on September 10, 2002.

Mark McClardy,

Manager, Planning and Programming Branch, Airports Division, Great Lakes Region.

[FR Doc. 02-24669 Filed 9-26-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Ex Parte No. 590]

Exemption for Railroad Agent Designation Under 49 U.S.C. 723

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of Proposed Exemption.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (Board) is proposing an exemption from the statutory requirement that rail carriers designate agents in the District of Columbia on whom the Board may serve notices in proceedings. Because carriers have alternative methods of obtaining notice of Board actions, and because there is no apparent need for the Board to continue to serve agents with notice, the Board believes that designation of, and service on, agents in Board proceedings is no longer necessary.

DATES: Comments on this proposal are due October 28, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Sado, (202) 565-1661. [Federal