



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Tony Rivero (R-21)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

Monday, November 18, 2019
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Legislators to Attend Israel Trade Office Opening in Tel Aviv

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Tony Rivero (R-21), chairman of the House State and International Affairs Committee, along with other elected members of the Arizona Legislature and the Arizona Israel Technology Alliance will celebrate the Israel Trade Office opening in Tel Aviv.

“It’s an honor to celebrate the historic opening of the Arizona Trade Office in Israel with those who worked together with me to make this a reality,” said Representative Rivero. **“By working together with Israel, we will strengthen trade and spur economic development. First, I would like to thank the Arizona Israel Technology Alliance for collaborating with the House State and International Affairs Committee and for making this trade visit a success. I’m also glad to be joined by my fellow members of the Arizona Legislature, Israeli officials, the Arizona Chamber of Commerce, and the Arizona Commerce Authority to celebrate this tremendous achievement.”**

“I’m excited to accompany Representative Rivero and others to celebrate this historic event that will open the door to countless opportunities of business collaborations between Arizona and Israel,” said Representative Walt Blackman (R-6). **“We must take every opportunity possible to work toward mutual economic growth so that both business and tourism can flourish in the region.”**

“I feel incredibly proud to be going on a bipartisan trip to Israel with a delegation of legislators this week. Israel is a country that I feel a strong connection to and a country I am proud to stand with as one of the Jewish elected. All I want is for others to have the most significant Israel experience that I once had,” said Representative Alma Hernandez (D-3). **“This is a unique opportunity for our delegation of Arizona lawmakers to have a meaningful trip and learn about issues Israel and the Middle East are facing today. I know that every one of my colleagues will return with a new perspective about daily life in Israel and will have a life-changing experience like I did!”**

“Traveling to Israel provides an extraordinary opportunity to walk on the paths of ancient history and to be inspired with the aura of religious origins while simultaneously being blown-away by the incredible resilience of its people who exude innovation, creativity, and prosperity,” said Representative Gerae Peten (D-4). **“I thoroughly look forward to witnessing how the multitudes honor their diversity of culture, ethics, and religion on a daily basis with dignity and strength to create better futures. We have much to learn on this trip to Israel, and I feel blessed to be immersed in this phenomenal experience.”**

“The Arizona Trade Office in Israel is a monumental milestone in furthering the growing opportunities and successes that Arizona continues to see. I thank Governor Ducey, Representative Rivero, and the Arizona Commerce Authority for their leadership in these efforts. The trade delegation to Israel, Arizona’s largest to date, is testament to the commitment and opportunities that lie ahead,” said Leib Bolel, CEO of the Arizona Israel Technology Alliance.

“The Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry applauds Representative Tony Rivero for his leadership in the establishment of a new Arizona trade office in Israel. Because of Representative Rivero’s work, Arizona’s already strong relationship with Israel will grow even stronger. I anticipate increased commercial activity and collaboration between Arizona—the startup state—and Israel—the startup nation—in aerospace and defense, autonomous technology, cybersecurity, water stewardship technology, and much more. I am confident that under the direction of the Arizona Commerce Authority, the Tel Aviv Trade and Investment Office will set the standard for state trade offices in Israel. We thank Governor Ducey for his commitment to the new office and to grow the nearly \$500 million in two-way trade activity between Arizona and Israel. Arizona will be served by this office. Representative Rivero, Governor Ducey, and ACA President and CEO Sandra Watson have the sincere appreciation of Arizona’s job creators,” said Glenn Hamer, CEO of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

“In the past ten years we have seen an increase in the mutual economic ties between Israel and Arizona that spillover to many other fields, from academic to research and development, energy, and defence. The opening of the Arizona trade office in Israel will allow many Israeli companies to examine the potential of collaborating with Arizona-based companies and even open an extension in Arizona to serve as their gateway to the U.S. and world markets. The consulate invested many efforts to strengthen the ties between Israel and Arizona, and we take pride that our efforts have resulted in such an unequivocally move to bolster the Israel-Arizona ties,” said Eitan Weiss, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Consulate General of Israel in Los Angeles.

###

CONTACT:

Matthew Specht
Director of Communications
House Republican Caucus
602-926-5518
mspecht@azleg.gov