



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative David Cook (R-7)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lawmakers Tout Successful Bipartisan Trade Mission to Brazil and Announce Legislative Priorities to Advance Arizona's Position in the Global Economy

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – A bipartisan group of lawmakers, led by State Representative David Cook, conducted a trade mission earlier this month to Brazil to strengthen Arizona-Brazil relations while advancing the state's position in the global economy.

"I was honored to be joined by such a great group of public servants in a bipartisan trade delegation to Brazil to expand our state's trade opportunities," said Representative Cook. **"I'm looking forward to working with my colleagues and the great leaders we met to bolster Arizona's economy."**

Throughout their four-day visit, Representative Cook, Representative-elect Matt Gress (R-4), Senator-elect Brian Fernandez (D-23), and Senator-elect Catherine Miranda (D-11) met with numerous top business leaders and innovative companies. The lawmakers made it clear they'd like to enhance the state's relationship with Brazil, especially after Brazil's Ambassador to the United States, Nestor Forster, encouraged Arizona's companies to forge partnerships with various Brazilian companies resulting in new business opportunities and ventures.

In 2019, trade between Arizona and Brazil was worth almost \$1.1 billion. And, just last year, U.S.-Brazil trade increased 45 percent and the country received the most foreign direct investment out of any developing country.

The delegates not only saw this trade mission as a chance to strengthen state relations abroad, but also as a learning opportunity to strengthen comprehensive policy recommendations that could further uplift the state's economy.

"After our successful trade mission to Brazil, we've been able to identify five bipartisan state policies aimed at increasing international commerce and making our state even more competitive in the 21st century economy," said the delegates in a joint statement.

Shared legislative priorities include:

- Secure state funding to establish a trade office in Brazil on behalf of Arizona;
- Collaborate with Arizona's higher education institutions to develop programs enabling students and researchers to study at Sao José dos Campos Aerospace Technology Complex to complement the Arizona-Brazil aerospace industry efforts in the 21st century economy;
- Foster cross-sector partnerships with Arizona businesses and other civic leaders to host ApexBrasil, AMCHAM-Brasil, and other vital economic partners during major events in 2023 like Super Bowl LVII, Waste Management Phoenix Open, and MLB Spring Training;
- Collaborate with airline operators to establish direct flights from Arizona to Brazil while setting aside tourism and trade marketing dollars to support a new flight route; and
- Work with the Arizona Commerce Authority to advance the state's position in the global economy by welcoming groundbreaking companies like aerospace and technology corporation, Embraer, to Arizona – companies interested in building production facilities for cutting-edge technology innovations.

“We’re excited to increase our economic and political relations with Brazil and are very optimistic about future business opportunities between our burgeoning economies,” the delegates added. **“Moreover, we’re motivated and ready to serve the people of Arizona this upcoming legislative session.”**

David Cook is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 7, which includes areas of Gila, Coconino, Navajo, Mohave and Apache Counties. He is the incoming Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for the 56th Legislature. Follow him on Twitter at @RepDavidCook.

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