



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives
Representative David Cook (R-7)
1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Monday, March 13, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Cook Urges Changes to Improve the Arizona-Mexico Commission

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representative David Cook, Chairman of the House International Trade Committee, has sent Governor Hobbs a letter urging her to restructure the sixteen current binational committees of the Arizona-Mexico Commission, reducing the number to six.

Representative Cook writes that the Commission’s current committees **“are too large to be able to conduct optimized binational efforts. Reducing this number to six would allow for more quality oversight, cohesive binational participation, and adaptability to global paradigm shifts.”**

He recommends the Commission have six binational committees focused on:

- Supply Chain
- Workforce Development Training
- Agriculture and Water
- Clean Energy
- Tourism Regulation
- Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME)

Additionally, Representative Cook recommends the Governor add a member of the Arizona legislature from each party who also serve on the House International Trade Committee to the board of the Arizona-Mexico Commission.

Representative Cook’s full letter is attached below.

David Cook is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 7, which includes Pinal, Gila, Coconino, and Navajo Counties. He is Chairman of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and the House International Trade Committee. Follow him on Twitter at @RepDavidCook.

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DISTRICT 7

Arizona House of Representatives Phoenix, Arizona 85007

March 10, 2023

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Governor of the State of Arizona
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Hobbs,

I have had the pleasure of meeting with the Consul General of Mexico, Jorge Mendoza Yescas, and discussed the close relationship between the Great State of Arizona and Mexico.

As we continue to build on a global economy, we look at strengthening partnerships with Mexico and Arizona to better our regions for the world markets in the 4th Industrial Revolution of the 21st Century. It is our common interest to further promote our close friendship with Mexico and its states and to adapt to current global paradigm shifts.

The Arizona-Mexico Commission (AMC) is a core ingredient in optimizing our relationship with Mexico. Following your decision to vacate all the positions from the AMC's current binational committees, we believe that these sixteen committees are too large to be able to conduct optimized binational efforts. Reducing this number to six would allow for more quality oversight, cohesive binational participation, and adaptability to global paradigm shifts.

As Chairman of the International Trade Committee, I would like to suggest six binational committees as follows:

1) Supply Chain

- On the semiconductor industry: ensuring a robust supply chain system for materials and goods between Mexican states such as Sonora and Arizona would provide a crucial foundation for sustaining a growing worldwide-recognized chip hub in Arizona. A consistent regional supply chain would output higher resilience to external factors.

2) Workforce Development Training

- Safeguarding high-quality skilled jobs is vital to sustaining a growing economy and, most importantly, the exponential growth of the semiconductor industry. Enhancing Arizona's and Mexico's workforce through development training programs would equip our populations with the best skillsets required for the jobs of the future, not tomorrow but today. Mexico is a key component as the country is tied to our binational supply chain.

3) *Agriculture and Water*

- Arizona's traditional economy comes from its primary sector. Hence, pairing innovative approaches with state-of-the-art technologies for modernizing Arizona's and Mexico's agricultural infrastructures is fundamental to providing sustainable food systems for our growing population and talented workforce. Agriculture uses approximately 74% of Arizona's freshwater supplies. Focusing on processes that help reduce and implement closed-loop systems would allow arid regions such as Arizona and Sonora not only to cut down on costs for water conservation and treatment, but also provide clean and safe water sources.

4) *Clean Energy*

- Putting emphasis on zero-emissions technologies and innovations such as solar, wind, EV mobility, and hydrogen fuel will help drive up infrastructure and transportation projects whilst conserving the quality of life for our population in Arizona. Since Mexico's supply chain is intimately tied to our systems (e.g., 30% of Arizona's imports from Mexico are related to the agricultural sector), coordinating our clean energy efforts would be vital to sustaining growing binational trade channels.

5) *Tourism Regulation*

- Enhancing the tourism sector is essential for Arizona's global status as a worthy destination. This will help attract more Foreign Direct Investment to our region and, to that extent, the regions near our border with Mexico. For instance, asserting Arizona and Mexico's Nogales seacoast as a symbiotic region on the global tourism market would boost safety and travel during off and on-peak seasons for Arizonan tourists traveling to "Arizona's beach," that is Rocky Point.

6) *Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME)*

- Promoting cooperation between Arizona and Mexico to increase SME trade and investment opportunities and establishing information-sharing tools to help SMEs.

Furthermore, I recommend adding a Member of the Arizona Legislature from the majority and minority parties who are on the House International Trade Committee to the board of the AMC. Additionally, I endorse having Mr. Tony Rivero serve on the AMC. He has extensive knowledge of not only the government but economic and business dealings with Arizona and Mexico. Former Representative Tony Rivero served as Chairman of the International Affairs Committee in the past and is still very involved today.

I stand ready to work with you to keep Arizona the leader economically for the southwest region.

Sincerely,



The Honorable David Cook
Arizona House of Representatives, LD 7
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair
House International Trade Committee Chair