



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative David Cook (R-7)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Friday, April 21, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chairman Cook Expresses Support for New State Trade Offices in Sonora, Mexico & Toronto, Canada

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – In a letter sent to Arizona Governor Hobbs this week, State Representative David Cook, Chairman of the House International Trade Committee, informs that he recently met with Consul General of Mexico, Jorge Mendoza Yescas, and his team to discuss the possibility of opening a fourth Arizona trade office in the State of Sonora. Despite it being our largest trade state of Mexico, Arizona does not currently have a trade office there. Chairman Cook recommends that an office should be established in Sonora and encourages the Governor’s consideration and support.

“Arizona should act now to increase its competitive positioning in the global arena on topics such as the semiconductor industry, secured supply chains, and clean energy programs,” writes Cook. **“These topics have national security connotations that are crucial for Arizona's sustainable economic development and our own border security in our region.”**

Chairman Cook also reached out this week to the Chair of the Executive Council of Ontario to initiate relations and plans for a future trade mission to his province. Canada is Arizona’s largest foreign direct investment contributor.

“A crucial aspect of this trip is to ordain long-lasting government ties between Arizona and Canada and, as such, formalize our relationship as a show of gratitude to the amazing Canadian people we dearly call ‘Snowbirds’ and to those who have settled in Arizona and who provide so much to our growing economy and diverse society,” wrote Chairman Cook. **“An Arizona regional office in Toronto shall be a testament to this impressive achievement of the Canadian people. This testament shall cement our business-to-business and business-to- government bonds in the decades to come, now, more than ever in the volatile geopolitical trends of the World.”**

A copy of both letters 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

April 18, 2023

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

Dear Governor Hobbs,

I recently met with the Consul General of Mexico, Jorge Mendoza Yescas, and his team to discuss the possibility of opening a fourth Arizona trade office in the State of Sonora, our largest trade state of Mexico. We currently do not have one.

As always, Mr. Mendoza and his hard-working team at the Mexican Consulate in Arizona have answered questions and facilitated the much-needed meetings as required. Their expertise on the relationship between Arizona and Mexico provides positive and fruitful conversations that my office has and will continue to engage in.

As a follow-up to the conversations, it has come to my attention that the Government of Sonora has an office space that is available (904 square feet). It is currently unoccupied and available to serve as 1) a "twin" to the office space currently occupied by the Representation of Sonora Government in Arizona in the Governor's Executive Tower in Phoenix; and 2) a location and working space for a staff member(s) under the direct supervision of the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA).

The available office space is in Hermosillo, the capital of Sonora, at the:

Government Palace of the State of Sonora
C. Comonfort SN-S, El Centenario, 83260 Hermosillo, Son., México.

As the Arizona-Mexico Commission is being restructured, this process could take months to materialize fully. As such, I recommend that your office directs the ACA to contract an employee to occupy the available space in Hermosillo to represent Arizona as soon as possible. Thus, Arizona would have a permanent representation in Sonora. Our counterparts in Sonora stand ready to support this decision in any way possible. If approved, our teams can expedite the process by swiftly contacting Francisco Acuña Méndez, head of Sonora's Sustainable Development Council (Codeso). His team will act immediately to implement our office in Sonora.

Time is of the essence as a window narrows down on Arizona and Sonora for promoting the region at international conventions and summits organized by other countries. It is highly advisable to engage Arizonan experts with counterparts from Sonora to attract and retain foreign direct investment from such events that are closing in our timeframe.

Arizona should act now to increase its competitive positioning in the global arena on topics such as the semiconductor industry, secured supply chains, and clean energy programs. These topics have national security connotations that are crucial for Arizona's sustainable economic development and our own border security in our region.

I stand ready to work with you in any way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Cook", is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

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

CC: Speaker Ben Toma

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DISTRICT 7

Arizona House of Representatives Phoenix, Arizona 85007

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Victor Fedeli
Chair of the Executive Council of Ontario
Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade of Ontario
Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Nipissing
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Minister Fedeli,

My name is David Cook, and I am a member of the Arizona House of Representatives. I am the Chairman of the Committees on International Trade and Transportation & Infrastructure as appointed by the Speaker of the House, Ben Toma.

Firstly, I wish to express my warmest thanks to Mr. Glenn Williamson for the introduction and Canada Arizona Business Council's support.

It is my honor to announce to your Ministry in the province of Ontario, Canada, that an International Trade Plan for 2023 has been unanimously adopted by members of the Committee on International Trade on April 10, 2023. In this Plan, the Speaker has tasked the Committee and me to enact trade missions to select international partners for 2023.

The objectives of the Plan are to:

- 1) Strengthen bilateral ties with existing international partners;
- 2) Attract and capture more foreign direct investment (FDI) to Arizona; and
- 3) Extend Arizona's international reach for sustaining a resilient and growing economy.

The Plan's mission is to enact trade and FDI missions to travel and connect with counterparts with an outcome of establishing Arizonan international trade offices.

I am delighted to declare that the great Dominion of Canada is among these select partner countries. Thus, the Arizona Legislature intends to send a delegation to Toronto, Ontario, during the interim session, July-December 2023, of the 56th Legislature.

I am formally extending my resolve for collaboration with Ontario's legislature to:

- 1) Connect with Government institutions of the Province of Ontario and the greater Canadian regions;

- 2) Visit financial institutions while in Toronto; and
- 3) Interact with top Canadian businesses, whose expertise ranges from aerospace and clean energy to Fin-tech and defense & security, headquartered in Greater Toronto.

The Arizonan delegation would appreciate meeting with you and your team during the visit. A crucial aspect of this trip is to ordain long-lasting government ties between Arizona and Canada and, as such, formalize our relationship as a show of gratitude to the amazing Canadian people we dearly call "Snowbirds" and to those who have settled in Arizona and who provide so much to our growing economy and diverse society. Indeed, Canada is our largest FDI contributor in Arizona.

An Arizona regional office in Toronto shall be a testament to this impressive achievement of the Canadian people. This testament shall cement our business-to-business and business-to-government bonds in the decades to come, now, more than ever in the volatile geopolitical trends of the World.

I stand ready to work together and seeing you hopefully soon in person in Toronto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "David Cook", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

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