



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative David Cook (R-7)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

House International Trade Committee Leads Bipartisan Trade Mission to Canada, Strengthening Business Investment Opportunities to Fuel Arizona's Economy

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona State Representative David Cook, Chairman of the House International Trade Committee, is set to lead a bipartisan delegation of House members this week on a pivotal trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) mission to Canada. The mission aims to strengthen the longstanding ties between Arizona and Canada, further enhancing economic collaboration, and pave the way for increased FDI.

The trade mission underscores the commitment of Arizona to optimize its priority sectors by securing emerging technologies and innovative processes that would attract additional foreign investment from Canada, helping to drive our state's economic growth and diversification.

Chairman Cook highlighted the significance of the Arizona-Canada relationship, stating, **“Canada is our largest contributor to foreign direct investment, and our bilateral trade has been instrumental in driving our economic growth. This mission marks a pivotal moment for Arizona as we endeavor to establish enduring trading and investment relationships across various levels of society and priority sectors. We look forward to establishing a permanent regional trade and FDI office in Canada, with the support of the Arizona Commerce Authority, to stand as a testament to our commitment to this vital partnership.”**

The bipartisan committee's mission aligns with its unanimous adoption of a [comprehensive trade plan](#) earlier this year, reflecting a strategic vision to fortify Arizona's economic growth through international collaboration, and builds upon extensive cooperation with key stakeholders, including the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, the Arizona Commerce Authority, and the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The trade mission to Canada encompasses several important objectives, including engaging with the US Embassy in Ottawa for a comprehensive trade brief and fostering discussions with economic development organizations from the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Additionally, the delegation will engage with the Ontario Legislature and economic leaders to explore trade and investment prospects. This mission holds particular significance as both Arizona and Canada are actively working towards establishing their own trade and investment offices.

Representative Justin Wilmeth, Vice Chairman of the International Trade Committee and House Commerce Chairman, expressed enthusiasm for the mission, stating, **“I am acutely aware of the invaluable relationship Arizona shares with our neighbors to the North. Canada stands as a monumental trade partner for our state, a fact that led me to secure funding in this year's state budget for the establishment of an Arizona trade office in Toronto. This office is a certainty. Our mission is not to debate the expansion into Canada,**

but rather to craft an office tailored to the needs of Canadian businesses seeking collaboration with Arizona, and vice versa. Canada is already a steadfast ally to Arizona, and this office will only reinforce that enduring friendship.”

The bipartisan delegation members include International Trade Committee Chairman David Cook (R-7), Vice Chairman Justin Wilmeth (R-2), and committee members Tim Dunn (R-25), Melody Hernandez (D-8), and Mariana Sandoval (D-23). The delegation is also joined by Representative Michael Carbone (R-25).

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 X/Twitter at @RepDavidCook.

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