



# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative David Cook (R-7)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

---

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## International Trade Committee Welcomes Japanese Consul General for Discussion on Strengthening Arizona-Japan Economic Ties

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Arizona State Representative David Cook, Chair of the House Committee on International Trade, recently welcomed the Honorable Kenko Sone, Consul General of Japan, to the State Capitol for a meeting focused on enhancing economic relations between Arizona and Japan.

During the August 8 meeting, Chairman Cook and Consul General Sone addressed opportunities for increased trade and foreign direct investment and emphasized the growing economic connection between Arizona and Japan, particularly in the semiconductor industry. In 2023, Arizona's exports to Japan exceeded \$878 million, with imports reaching \$1.66 billion, reflecting the importance of this sector. Arizona's role as a key player in semiconductor manufacturing has attracted significant Japanese investment.

Chairman Cook remarked on the positive outcomes of the discussions, stating, **“Our conversation with Consul General Sone was instrumental in reinforcing the strong economic relationship between Arizona and Japan. We are eager to continue the dialogue and explore further opportunities for collaboration and economic growth.”**

The House Committee on International Trade is considering a future trade and investment mission to Japan, aimed at building on the progress made during this visit and identifying new avenues for cooperation that benefit both regions.

Photos of the meeting are 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 X/Twitter at @RepDavidCook.*

###

