



On behalf of USA*Engage – a Washington, D.C.-based coalition of businesses, agriculture groups and trade associations that advocates for increased engagement and dialogue between the United States and the international community, enclosed is a kit of materials, which includes information on the coalition’s position on U.S. unilateral sanctions and the need for diplomacy, dialogue and global engagement.

This packet includes the following materials:

- A short description of USA*Engage and the coalition’s activities
- Announcement of USA*Engage current Corporate Co-Chair
- Press release highlighting USA*Engage’s most recent **Annual Meeting** with Iraq Study Group Co-Chair Lee Hamilton. Every spring, USA*Engage hosts an Annual Meeting to recognize leadership in U.S. engagement. Previous keynote speakers have included former National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft, Senator Richard Lugar and Congressmen Jeff Flake and Gregory Meeks.
- Press release outlining the latest release of **USA*Engage’s Congressional Scorecard** for the 109th Congress. Each Congressional session, USA*Engage publishes a Congressional Report Card, which scores each Member of Congress on his or her voting record on key issues affecting international trade, unilateral sanctions and global engagement.
- Press release on Mission to Havana from February 2007
- A press release detailing a new report by the law firm of Dewey Ballantine LLP on the effectiveness of unilateral sanctions, which was commissioned by USA*Engage and the National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC). The study, **Foreign Sanctions Countermeasures and Other Responses to U.S. Extraterritorial Sanctions**, points out that U.S. trading partners rely both on general domestic anti-discrimination provisions and laws enacted specifically to counter the application of U.S. sanctions extraterritorially.

Jake Colvin, Director of USA*Engage, and William Reinsch, Co-Chair of USA*Engage and President of the National Foreign Trade Council, are available for comment should you require a source of information for future stories. If you would like to arrange a time to speak with Mr. Colvin or Mr. Reinsch, please feel free to call me at 202-822-9491.

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USA ENGAGE





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USA*Engage Welcomes New Co-Chairman Del Renigar

Washington, D.C. – The National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC) and USA*Engage today announced the appointment of Del Renigar as Co-Chairman of USA*Engage. Renigar serves as Corporate Counsel for International Policy & Trade Regulation for General Electric (GE) Company.

“There is no one more qualified than Del to take on the role of providing solid counsel, direction and leadership to USA*Engage,” said USA*Engage Director Jake Colvin. “Del brings with him many years of foreign policy and trade experience from both the public and private sectors, which we will draw upon to help move forward the mission of the organization.”

Renigar currently counsels all GE businesses on trade controls and anti-bribery compliance and global public policy, trade, investment, and market access issues. Before joining GE, Renigar served on the National Security Council at the White House and at the Commerce Department.

“It is a critical time for USA*Engage and its member companies to work with federal, state and local policymakers on a positive agenda that takes advantage of the complementary nature of U.S. foreign policy, national security and economic interests and that encourages dialogue, engagement and multilateralism as important tools in pursuing those interests,” said Renigar.

Prior to his federal government service, Renigar was an attorney with Steptoe & Johnson LLP in Washington, DC where he maintained a broad international practice.

Renigar will succeed Robert Haines, International Senior Adviser for Exxon Mobil Corporation, who served as Co-Chairman of USA*Engage since 2003 and who will retire from the company at the end of the month. Haines has also been a member of the Board of the National Foreign Trade Council for 10 years.

“Both NFTC and USA*Engage are sincerely grateful for all of the contributions Bob has made to help achieve the mission of USA*Engage since it was established a decade ago,” said NFTC President and USA*Engage Co-Chair Bill Reinsch. “We appreciate Bob’s many years of service to the organization as a thoughtful leader and contributor and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.”



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Iraq Study Group Co-Chair Lee Hamilton Calls for Increased International Engagement at USA*Engage's 10th Anniversary

Coalition Honors Former Congressmen Lee Hamilton and Cal Dooley

Washington, D.C. – USA*Engage and the National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC) today hosted a luncheon to honor former Members of Congress Lee Hamilton and Cal Dooley for their advocacy of global engagement during and after their tenures on Capitol Hill. During the event, Hamilton delivered the keynote address, in which he discussed the importance of engagement and dialogue in balancing the view of American power abroad as the United States confronts threats of terrorism and tyranny.

“Our friends around the world are willing to work with us often times, but they are not willing to be dominated by us. The world’s a very complex place and nations are going to pursue, as we have learned, their national interests and they define it, not as we define it,” said Hamilton.

“American leadership is still very much needed in the world today. What Americans want, I think, is American leadership on behalf of the world where our interests are protected, where we work with likeminded nations, where the values of liberty, freedom, justice and opportunity are the norm,” he continued.

Since its inception 10 years ago, USA*Engage has maintained a commitment to advocating for U.S. diplomatic engagement and dialogue as means of addressing important political, social and economic concerns facing the global community. USA*Engage also remains a strong proponent of trade and citizen diplomacy, and consistently opposes U.S. unilateral sanctions.

“Both of today’s honorees are true champions of international trade, dialogue and diplomacy – all of which are crucial elements of U.S. foreign policy. We are privileged to honor their leadership in the public and private sectors,” said Jake Colvin, Director of USA*Engage. “We echo Mr. Hamilton’s call for increased dialogue as the United States continues pursuing its foreign policy objectives in the Middle East and throughout the world.”

Former Representative Hamilton is currently President and Director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and served as Co-Chairman of the Iraq Study Group. During his tenure in Congress, he represented Indiana’s ninth district, and was an original co-sponsor of sanctions reform legislation in the House of Representatives. Former Representative Dooley represented California’s 20th district and is currently President and CEO of GMA/FPA.

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*USA*Engage (www.usaengage.org) is a coalition of small and large businesses, agriculture groups and trade associations working to seek alternatives to the proliferation of unilateral U.S. foreign policy sanctions and to promote the benefits of U.S. engagement abroad. Established in 1997 and organized under the National Foreign Trade Council (www.nftc.org), USA*Engage leads a campaign to inform policy-makers, opinion-leaders, and the public about the counterproductive nature of unilateral sanctions, the importance of exports and overseas investment for American competitiveness and jobs, and the role of American companies in promoting human rights and democracy world wide.*

The National Foreign Trade Council (www.nftc.org) is a leading business organization advocating an open, rules-based global trading system. Founded in 1914 by a broad-based group of American companies, the NFTC now serves hundreds of member companies through its offices in Washington and New York.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USA*Engage and NFTC Release Trade and Engagement Report Card for 109th Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. – USA*Engage and the National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC) today issued their report card for the 109th Congress, which grades Members on their voting records on key issues affecting trade, unilateral sanctions and global engagement.

“We commend Congress for passing important trade legislation this session, including free trade agreements with Bahrain, Oman and the Central American countries, as well as overwhelmingly reaffirming our commitment to the World Trade Organization,” said NFTC President and USA*Engage Co-Chair Bill Reinsch, who also applauded Senators for their votes against an amendment to impose new sanctions on Iran. “Thanks to strong bipartisan leadership by Senators Warner, Biden, Hagel and Levin, good policy won the day and this legislation – which would have been detrimental to U.S. diplomatic efforts – was defeated.”

He added, though, that in some ways the results were disappointing from the standpoint of global engagement. “The China enforcement bill [H.R. 3283] was particularly worrisome, as many Members who voted against it simply wanted to make already bad legislation even worse,” said Reinsch, who also sounded a cautionary note on U.S. sanctions policy: “It is an easy vote to approve sanctions on a regime like the one on Burma. However, Members must examine whether unilateral sanctions are having their intended effect and consider what other damage they might be doing to ordinary people in the target country. U.S. values and foreign policy objectives are better pursued through diplomacy and engagement.”

The 109th Congressional Trade and Engagement Report Card was prepared at the request of USA*Engage and NFTC member companies and associations. The organizations have tabulated and analyzed Congressional voting patterns on trade and engagement since 1997. The Report Card scored Senators on 12 votes and House Members on 14 votes, and weighted the vote on CAFTA twice.

Two House Members – Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and Vic Snyder (D-AR) – received an A+ with the highest score of 14, while Senators Chuck Hagel (R-NE) and Richard Lugar (R-IN) received an A+ with a score of 12.

Jake Colvin, Director of USA*Engage, noted that the votes on visa issues and free trade agreements demonstrate that open markets and engagement are important to large majorities of Members, though bipartisanship on some trade issues had slipped from earlier sessions of Congress. “Overall we remain optimistic about the prospects for increased bipartisan support for trade and engagement.”

Colvin concluded, “There are a number of important issues that we expect to come before Congress in November and in 2007 – from granting normal trade relations to Vietnam to extending trade preferences for developing countries to considering pending free trade agreements – that warrant and require strong bipartisan support.”

A complete breakdown of the voting records and individual grades is available at www.usaengage.org.

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Center for International Policy

Promoting a foreign policy based on cooperation, demilitarization and respect for human rights

USA*ENGAGE



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Trade Experts Offer Insights from Mission to Havana

Group investigated private sector participation in the Cuban economy

Washington, DC – Today representatives from prominent U.S. trade associations hosted a press conference at the National Press Club to provide their firsthand perspective on the state of the Cuban economy after returning from a fact-finding mission to Cuba, which took place February 19-22. Members of the mission met with trade and international economic officials from the Cuban government to learn more about the Cuban economy and the role of the private sector. The panelists were in Cuba as consultants to gather information on a trip sponsored by, and on behalf of, the Center for International Policy

“This is a critical time in Cuba’s history,” said Timothy Deal, Senior Vice President and Head of the Washington, DC office of the U.S. Council for International Business. “Our trip made clear that the severe economic troubles Cuba faced following the Soviet collapse are over. The country is looking to the outside world to provide new resources.”

Consultants on the information-gathering mission included Mr. Deal, Daniel O’Flaherty, Vice President of the National Foreign Trade Council; Jake Colvin, Director of USA*Engage; Peggy Rochette, Senior Director of International Policy for the Food Products Association; Allison O’Donnell, Director of Government Relations for the National Retail Federation; Robert Muse, an attorney; and Abigail Poe with the Center for International Policy.

“Our trip was a rare opportunity to assess firsthand the role of the private sector in the Cuban economy, and we found a mixed bag,” said Colvin. “There are certainly opportunities for trade – and probably would be more absent the U.S. embargo – but it is clear that investment opportunities at this point are more limited and subject to very specific conditions,” he continued.

The group visited officials in ministries with responsibility for trade, foreign investment, basic industries, tourism and food imports, and met with Ricardo Alarcon, President of the National Assembly. Members also toured oil exploration facilities east of Havana.

“Overall, the economy is probably in better shape than it has been in years, and Cuba seems quite content to partner with friendly countries – particularly Venezuela,” said O’Flaherty. “What we saw is that Cuba is charging forward with plans for oil exploration and expanded tourism facilities with some degree of foreign participation – and without the U.S.”

Robert Muse, an attorney who accompanied the delegation to Cuba, noted that, with regard to U.S. policy, “Should the U.S. want to take down its barriers to trade and investment with Cuba, President Bush and anyone who follows him has the latitude under current law to allow the resumption of commercial relations between the two countries.”

Wayne Smith, Senior Fellow and Director of the Cuba Program at the Center for International Policy, said that, “CIP is delighted that these individuals could bring their experience and expertise to help evaluate the Cuban economy at this very important juncture.”



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New Report Underscores Ineffectiveness of Unilateral Sanctions with Extraterritorial Reach

Details Countermeasures Enacted by Countries to Prohibit Compliance

Washington, D.C. – Some of the United States’ closest trading partners are responding to U.S. extraterritorial sanctions by enacting countermeasures and other means to block their application in foreign jurisdictions, according to a new report by the law firm of Dewey Ballantine LLP. The paper, *Foreign Sanctions Countermeasures and Other Responses to U.S. Extraterritorial Sanctions*, was commissioned by USA*Engage and the National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC) and reports that despite the United States maintaining old and enacting new unilateral sanctions with extraterritorial reach, many of our allies have opposed them with countermeasures, thwarting their intended effects.

“The reality is that sanctions are only effective if they’re widely applied. Unilateral sanctions by far represent the most ineffective means to impact a foreign government or persons whose policies and behavior we disagree with or want to change,” said NFTC President Bill Reinsch. “The same is true for unilateral sanctions that extend beyond our borders and attempt to affect the behavior of entities, companies or persons overseas. These measures put companies in the impossible position of violating someone’s law no matter what they do.”

The report, written by Harry Clark and Lisa Wang of Dewey Ballantine, chronicles the history of nations using blocking statutes, trade complaints, U.N. declarations and other countermeasures to criticize, block or sidestep U.S. sanctions. As the paper points out, “During the Cold War, U.S. allies obstructed U.S. extraterritorial sanctions on the supply of materials for Soviet Union gas pipelines in Europe. Since the end of the Cold War, U.S. trading partners have supplemented blocking measures by challenging U.S. sanctions as being contrary to World Trade Organization (WTO) trade agreements.”

The paper notes, however, that while this trend has a long history, U.S. trading partners are now employing new, more creative means to avoid application of U.S. extraterritorial sanctions. Countries are not only using countermeasures consciously to block U.S. sanctions, but are also enacting civil rights laws and other legal defenses to justify not applying sanctions.

The report concludes by noting that, extraterritorial sanctions “could impede U.S. leadership and international collaboration needed to advance U.S. national security and foreign policy interests, including coordination to suppress international terrorism...[C]onflicts with authorities in other major economies, like the EU, are placing U.S. companies at risk of legal double jeopardy. It

would be useful to consider whether these types of disadvantages are outweighed by any utility from applying foreign policy sanctions extraterritorially.”

The release of the paper comes on the heels of votes Tuesday in the House of Representatives on Iran and Sudan sanctions legislation, which would target foreign companies doing business in those countries.

“Just this week we saw the House approve a measure that would expand the scope of sanctions against Iran to reach foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies in Europe and Asia,” said USA*Engage Director Jake Colvin. “If, at the end of the day, those governments block the sanctions, or lodge complaints with us or the WTO, you start to become concerned that the good intentions of Congress might lead to an unproductive outcome.”

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