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Legislative Caucus On International Trade & Global Competitiveness Hosts “International Commerce & The Commonwealth: Roles & Resources”



BOSTON – The Legislative Caucus on International Trade & Global Competitiveness hosted its inaugural session event on Monday for state legislators and staff - *International Commerce & The Commonwealth: Roles & Resources*.

Senate Chair Marc R. Pacheco (D-Taunton) and **House Chair Antonio F.D. Cabral (D-New Bedford)** hosted a robust discussion of the various federal and state resources available for businesses throughout the Commonwealth with moderator **Kristen Rupert**, Senior Vice President of External Relations, Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM); **James Paul**, Director, Boston Office, U.S. Commercial Service, U.S. Department of Commerce; **Paula Murphy**, Director, Massachusetts Export Center, Massachusetts Small Business Development Center (MSBDC) Network; and **Mark Sullivan**, Executive Director, Massachusetts Office of International Trade & Investment (MOITI).

“I was extremely pleased to have convened this excellent panel of experts for a rich conversation about the latest challenges and opportunities facing businesses throughout the Commonwealth,” said **Senator Pacheco**. “Caucus members and attendees received an informative overview of the key organizations supporting Massachusetts Businesses and the valuable federal and state resources they offer. Many thanks to Kristen Rupert, Jim Paul, Paula Murphy, and Mark Sullivan for allowing caucus members and legislative staff to tune in to this enlightening conversation.”

“I am truly impressed by this first meeting of the ITGC Caucus and the wealth of resources that was shared by this all-star panel of experts,” said **Representative Cabral**. “As we know, Massachusetts businesses have been severely impacted during the last couple of years. I am pleased to know that there are organizations out there providing them with valuable state and federal resources. A special thank you to Kristen Rupert, Jim Paul, Paula Murphy, and Mark Sullivan for your wonderful presentation to our caucus, legislators and staff. I am delighted to co-chair this very important caucus alongside Senator Pacheco.”

At Monday’s International Trade and Global Competitiveness Caucus panel event, experts shared information with over twenty Legislative offices in attendance about the goals and statewide efforts of AIM, the Department of Commerce U.S. Commercial Service, the Massachusetts Export Center & MSBDC, and the Massachusetts Office of International Trade & Investment (MOITI). The discussion covered a number of critical topics involving consulate/diplomatic corps, MassPort, and a variety of resources and emerging developments in the Commonwealth’s export economy.

“Massachusetts companies interested in international business can access low-or-no-cost resources provided by state and federal agencies and private industry,” said **Kristen Rupert, Senior Vice President of External Relations, Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM)**. “Help with global expansion plans, supply chain challenges, global business development needs, and trade regulations is all readily available.”

“I am delighted that the legislature has established the Caucus on International Trade and Global Competitiveness to highlight the increasing importance of international trade for the Commonwealth's economy and businesses,” said **Paula Murphy, Director of the Massachusetts Export Center, part of the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center (MSBDC) Network**. “I appreciate the leadership of Senate Chair Pacheco

and House Chair Cabral in convening the Caucus and look forward to working with them and other Caucus members to help Massachusetts businesses achieve success in global markets."

"We look forward to continuing our close collaboration with the numerous other resources available to Massachusetts organizations in helping to grow their international sales," said **Jim Paul, Director, Boston Office, Commercial Service, U.S. Department of Commerce**. "Thank you to the Caucus on International Trade and Global Competitiveness for organizing this event and supporting our outreach activities to Massachusetts exporters."

The experts presenting at Monday's ITGC Caucus panel also discussed a number of exciting upcoming events in their respective communities:

- [Global Business Development in a Pandemic](#)
October 28, 2021 - Massachusetts Export Center / MSBDC
- [Global Trade & Supply Chains: Chips, China & Container Challenges](#)
November 3, 2021 / 9:00 AM - Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM)
- [Export Expo](#)
January 27-28, 2022 - Massachusetts Export Center / MSBDC

For more information about Monday's Legislative Caucus on International Trade & Global Competitiveness event and future programming, contact: Scott.Young@MASenate.gov or Alves.Medieros@MAHouse.gov.

International Trade Resources in Massachusetts



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