

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, strongly supports H.R. 5741, the "Jobs Originated Through Launching Travel (JOLT) Act of 2012," which would address key barriers in the visa processing system that deter international business and leisure travel, and encourages you to cosponsor it.

Travel and tourism is a small business-centered sector that accounts for more than \$700 billion in revenues and 7.4 million American jobs. Additionally, when business visitors travel to the U.S. to buy products or participate in conferences, training, and trade shows, they strengthen America's role as the center of innovation and global commerce. By increasing efficiency in the visa processing system and reversing the perception that the U.S. does not welcome international travelers, the U.S. could restore its share of the travel market to its 2000 level of 17 percent and create an additional 1.3 million jobs by 2020.

To increase international travel to the U.S. and help create American jobs, this bill would:

- Allow the State Department to develop a pilot program for fee-based premium processing service to expedite visa interview appointments for travelers that require expedited service.
- Prepare visa applicants for their travel to the U.S. by requiring the State Department to post historical data regarding visa interview appointment wait times for each visa processing post.
- Provide necessary updates to the Visa Waiver Program. The Visa Waiver Program currently provides visa-free travel for business and leisure visitors from 36 countries, and the updated requirements contained in this legislation would allow the Secretary of Homeland Security to add additional program countries after they have successfully met the necessary security requirements.
- Require the State Department to set a goal for the processing of nonimmigrant visa applications.

The Chamber strongly supports H.R. 5741 and encourages you to cosponsor it.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten