

Coyne, Michael

From: Coleman, Norm B.
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 2:37 PM
To: 'aaron_cummins@grassley.senate.gov'
Subject: FW: Iowa GDMP Event with HRH Ambassador Reema Bandar Al Saud
Attachments: Iowa GDMP with HRH Ambassador Reema Bandar Al Saud Summary.pdf

Dear Aaron,

I am reaching out today to let you know that the Greater Des Moines Partnership, in cooperation with the Iowa Economic Development Authority and the Des Moines International Trade Council, recently hosted Her Royal Highness Ambassador Reema Bandar Al Saud, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the United States, in a virtual event for their members and invited guests on July 16, 2020.

As you know, the Greater Des Moines Partnership has hosted numerous distinguished speakers over the years, and Ambassador Reema was pleased to participate and share her thoughts on a wide array of topics. After a gracious introduction from Gene Meyer, President of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, she spoke about the importance of the 75-year relationship between Saudi Arabia and the United States, the vital geopolitical, economic and security benefits of the alliance, and the transformative changes, particularly for women, occurring in the Kingdom as a result of Vision 2030.

The event was well-attended with close to 80 guests from Iowa's business community, including Craig Hill, Charles Sukup, Jay Beyers, and Ambassador Kenneth Quinn. Attendees had the opportunity to pose questions to Ambassador Reema, who received overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees and the hosts of the Greater Des Moines Partnership.

I have attached an overview of the event. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Best,

Norm

Senator Norm Coleman

Senior Counsel

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Coyne, Michael

From: Coleman, Norm B.
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 2:36 PM
To: 'lisa_goeas@ernst.senate.gov'
Subject: FW: Iowa GDMP Event with HRH Ambassador Reema Bandar Al Saud
Attachments: Iowa GDMP with HRH Ambassador Reema Bandar Al Saud Summary.pdf

Dear Lisa,

I am reaching out today to let you know that the Greater Des Moines Partnership, in cooperation with the Iowa Economic Development Authority and the Des Moines International Trade Council, recently hosted Her Royal Highness Ambassador Reema Bandar Al Saud, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the United States, in a virtual event for their members and invited guests on July 16, 2020.

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Norm

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***A Conversation with Her Royal Highness Ambassador Reema Bandar Al Saud
Celebrating 75 Years of Diplomatic Relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia***

Hosted by the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Iowa Economic Development Authority,
and the Des Moines International Trade Council

July 16, 2020

Zoom Interactive Event

1:00-2:00 EDT

Ambassador Reema Bandar Al Saud addressed a virtual event, hosted by the Greater Des Moines Partnership, the Iowa Economic Development Authority, and the Des Moines International Trade Council on July 16, 2020. After being introduced by Gene Meyer, president of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Ambassador Reema focused her remarks on several topics impacting the U.S.-Saudi partnership and participated in a question and answer session moderated by Ryan Carroll of the Greater Des Moines Partnership.

Hall Delano Roosevelt, grandson of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and current president and CEO of the U.S.-Saudi Business Council, was a special guest in attendance. It was President Franklin Roosevelt who invited Ambassador Reema's great-grandfather, King Abdulaziz ibn Saud, to the first meeting between leaders of the U.S. and Saudi Arabia aboard the USS Quincy 75 years ago. Ambassador Reema and Del Roosevelt spoke about the vibrant history of cooperation between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia and the importance of the U.S.-Saudi partnership moving forward. Ambassador Reema further remarked on the importance of trade and deepening the economic ties between our two countries. Several companies in Iowa already benefit from a robust trading relationship with the Kingdom, and some on the call were beginning or already considering relationships with Saudi Arabia's business community.

Additionally, Abdulrahman Bakir, vice president of investment attraction and development at the Saudi Arabia Ministry of Investment, and Ahmed Abuzinada, commercial attaché with the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, joined the virtual event. They spoke to some of the specific questions from participants, described the business culture and economy of Saudi Arabia and expressed their appreciation to the Greater Des Moines Partnership for hosting this important event. Ambassador Reema made it clear that the Kingdom is making great strides in diversifying their economy under Vision 2030, and there is ample opportunity for Iowa businesses in Saudi Arabia.

Ambassador Reema discussed the bold transformation occurring in Saudi Arabia under Vision 2030. From diversifying the Saudi economy to opening Saudi Arabia to tourism, Vision 2030 touches every government department and Saudi citizen. Vision 2030 further seeks to empower women, an effort recently recognized by the World Bank Group whose annual Women, Business, and the Law report recognized Saudi Arabia as having made the biggest yearly improvement. Specifically, the report recognized Saudi Arabia for barring sexual harassment in both the public and private employment sectors, legally protecting pregnant employees from discriminatory dismissal, equalizing the retirement age for men and women, and mandating that women are paid equally

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compared to their male counterparts. Ambassador Reema spoke passionately about these changes and answered questions from Iowans hearing about Vision 2030 for the first time.

Additional topics covered by Ambassador Reema included:

- How COVID-19 has impacted Saudi Arabia
- What agricultural commodities are in demand in Saudi Arabia
- Recent changes to Saudi Arabia's policies for visas and international business as a whole
- Saudi Arabia's stabilizing role in the world and partnership with U.S. security efforts

The event concluded with Ambassador Reema thanking the Greater Des Moines Partnership, the Iowa Economic Development Authority, the Des Moines International Trade Council, and the attendees who joined the event. She further expressed the importance for young people in both the U.S. and Saudi Arabia to explore each other's cultures and to continue to build on the vibrant and vitally important partnership between the two countries. Specifically, she described Saudi Arabia's young people, which make up 70% of the Saudi population, as inspired by Vision 2030 and excited to engage with their allies in America.

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Coyne, Michael

From: Coleman, Norm B.
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 2:33 PM
To: olivia_kurtz@collins.senate.gov
Subject: Maine World Affairs Council Event with Her Royal Highness Ambassador Reema Bandar Al Saud
Attachments: Maine World Affairs Council with HRH Summary_.pdf

Dear Olivia,

I wanted to reach out and let you know that the Maine World Affairs Council recently hosted Her Royal Highness Ambassador Reema Bandar Al Saud, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the United States, in a virtual event for their members and other attendees on July 23, 2020.

The Maine World Affairs Council has hosted numerous distinguished speakers over the years in pursuit of cultivating global understanding and promoting meaningful discussions on current international affairs. Ambassador Reema was pleased to participate and share her thoughts on a diverse array of topics, including the importance of the 75-year partnership between the United States and Saudi Arabia, the vital geopolitical, economic, and security benefits of the alliance, and the transformative changes occurring for women in the Kingdom as a result of Vision 2030.

The event was well attended with 70 Maine leaders and community members joining virtually to hear Ambassador Reema. Included were Harold Pachios who provided a welcoming introduction, Brenda Garrand who participated in the question and answer session with the Ambassador and former Congressman Mike Michaud. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and panelists were able to participate directly. Attendees and the hosts of the World Affairs Council positively commented on the Ambassador's passion for Saudi Arabia and her people, her informative remarks and answers to questions, and her efforts in bringing America and Saudi Arabia even closer together.

Attached is an overview of the event. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Best,

Norm

Senator Norm Coleman

Senior Counsel

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An Evening with Her Royal Highness Ambassador Reema Bandar Al Saud

Hosted by the Maine World Affairs Council
July 23, 2020
Zoom Interactive Event
7:00-8:00 p.m. EDT

Ambassador Reema Bandar Al Saud addressed a virtual event, hosted by the Maine World Affairs Council on Thursday, July 23, 2020. After being introduced by Harold Pachios, Advisory Board Member and Founding Partner of Preti Flaherty, Ambassador Reema focused her remarks on several areas surrounding the robust 75-year U.S.-Saudi partnership. She then participated in a question and answer session with the attendees.

Ambassador Reema spoke passionately on the relationship and ties between the people of the Kingdom and Maine, highlighting the shared values of the two. She further applauded the mission of the Maine World Affairs Council for bringing cultures from around the world and an international perspective to the Pine Tree State. Additionally, Ambassador Reema spoke on the importance of Saudi students studying at Maine's colleges and universities, the shared cultural experiences through Bates College's Saudi contemporary art display, and Deering High School in Portland, Maine providing hijabs for Muslim women participating in sports.

Ambassador Reema further discussed the bold and inspiring transformation occurring in Saudi Arabia under Vision 2030. From diversifying the Saudi economy to opening Saudi Arabia to tourism, Vision 2030 touches every government department and Saudi citizen. Vision 2030 additionally seeks to empower women, an effort recently recognized by the World Bank Group whose yearly Women, Business, and the Law report recognized Saudi Arabia as having made the biggest yearly improvement. Specifically, the report recognized Saudi Arabia for barring sexual harassment in both the public and private employment sectors, legally protecting pregnant employees from discriminatory dismissal, setting the retirement age the same for men as for women, and mandating equal pay for women as their male counterparts. Ambassador Reema spoke extensively on these changes and provided real-world examples as to how significant these changes are for women in the Kingdom.

Additional topics covered by Ambassador Reema included:

- How COVID-19 has impacted Saudi Arabia.
- The honor of being the Saudi Ambassador to the United States, and the first female to serve in this capacity.
- Energy diversification and Saudi Arabia's solar panel fields that are the largest in the world and the other sustainability efforts in the Kingdom.
- The partnership between the Kingdom and the United Nations to advance human rights.
- The Kingdom's efforts seeking a political solution to the conflict in Yemen and Saudi Arabia as a stabilizing force in the Middle East.
- Athletics culture and how it relates to both men and women and the importance of sports in our culture and economy.

The event concluded with Ambassador Reema thanking the panelists and encouraging all attendees to visit the Kingdom once COVID-19 allows travel.

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