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Strategies

May 21, 2019

The Honorable David Whitley
Texas Secretary of State
Capitol Building
1100 Congress, Room 1E.8
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Secretary Whitley:

As a courtesy, we wanted to let you and your office know that His Excellency Mamuka Bakhtadze, the Prime Minister of Georgia and a high-level delegation will be visiting Dallas on June 14th as part of a multi-city U.S. tour.

The government of Georgia is seeking to increase U.S.-Georgia trade and investment, with the principal goal of moving towards a free trade agreement (FTA) between our two countries. Our firm has been working with the Georgia Embassy for the planning of the U.S. tour and related activities.

Georgia is strategically located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia giving companies access to new opportunities. Georgia is recognized as one of the easiest places to do business in the world. World Bank's Doing Business 2019 report placed Georgia in sixth place in the Ease of Doing Business category among 190 countries. The country's friendly business climate offers access to an un-tapped region of about 200 million people. The business environment continues to strengthen as the government prioritizes reforms and investment of a strong, open economy.

The full schedule is currently being developed to maximize their time in Texas with introductions to the business community. To date, we have confirmed a [luncheon address](#) with the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth. There is no request for your office to sponsor any activities. However, if you or your colleagues would be interested to attend an event, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Marvin B. Singleton

Managing Director

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Mamuka Bakhtadze

Mamuka Bakhtadze has been the Prime Minister of Georgia since June 2018. In his capacity as Prime Minister, Mr. Bakhtadze has established a strong vision for the nation built on strengthening democracy, fostering a vibrant and sustainable economy, while investing in Georgia's most valuable asset, its people. He has helped advance Georgia's integration into the EU and NATO, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with allies to strengthen global security. Domestically, Bakhtadze introduced a "Green Economy" agenda and "lean government" initiative that reduced the number of ministries from 14 to 11, and redirected budget expenditures to social programs. He has launched a comprehensive reform program to overhaul the country's education system, and pledged to allocate 6% of GDP to boost human capital development and empower sustainable economic growth.

Prior to becoming Prime Minister, Mr. Bakhtadze served as Minister of Finance of Georgia. In this role, he carried out a number of reforms to simplify banking regulations and the country's tax system.

From 2013 to 2017, Mr. Bakhtadze worked as a CEO of JSC Georgian Railway, earning a place for Georgian Railway as one of the leaders in the industry. He successfully promoted Georgia's interests in numerous international projects, including Viking, ZUBR, and the South-West Corridor, to strengthen Georgia's role as a vital transportation, trade, logistics, and IT hub connecting East and West.

Mr. Bakhtadze held various leadership positions in the business sector. He served as the CEO of the Georgian International Energy Corporation and Member of the Supervisory Board of the largest industrial holding in Georgia – the Georgian Industrial Group.

At his relatively young age, Mamuka Bakhtadze has proved himself as an effective leader and established a strong track record of success inside and outside government.

Mr. Bakhtadze holds an MBA from INSEAD, a Master's Degree in Business from Moscow State University, and a Bachelor's in Organization and Management of Foreign Economic Affairs from Tbilisi State University. He also obtained his PhD and BA degrees in Electromechanical Engineering from Georgian Technical University.