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CONTACT: michael.saba@sdlegislature.gov

HB1223 Fails To Pass

The House State Affairs Committee sent House Bill 1223 to the 41st day on a 9-4 vote, effectively killing the bipartisan proposal co-sponsored by over 20 members of the legislature. HB1223 would have created an International Trade Office in South Dakota, spurring economic growth and assisting South Dakota businesses in breaking into overseas markets. While South Dakotan producers create excellent products at great prices, North Dakota does four to five times as much international business as South Dakota without even taking into account the oil trade. According to data gathered by the United States Census Bureau, South Dakota's total share of the United State's exports was just 0.1%.

"We had 24 cosponsors for this bipartisan bill, both republicans and democrats. Businesses and farmers across the state were asking for an International Trade Office, but we couldn't get it done today. South Dakota's producers need help extending their business into overseas markets, and I will continue to champion the cause despite this setback" stated Representative Saba. "South Dakota needs assistance from the federal government on matters of foreign trade, but we have been unable to receive any meaningful guidance from Washington. While I will keep fighting on behalf of farmers and small businesses in Pierre, I hope our federal representatives can pick up the slack and do something to support our local economy".

Representative Saba went on to comment that despite this setback he will continue to lead foreign trade delegations through the state. Representative Michael Saba has already arranged two trade delegations to occur in the coming months: one from Saudi Arabia, which has recently become the third largest importer of South Dakota goods, and Egypt, a top-ten importer of South Dakota goods.

These materials are distributed by Dan Lederman acting through LS2group on behalf of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

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