March 12, 2012

**The US as a Tourist Destination: Making it easier for Foreign Visitors!!**

Dear Colleague:

The US Department of Homeland Security and the US Department of State is hosting a briefing to announce the range of efforts being made to make it easier and more attractive for foreign visitors to come to the United States.

Join Tanya Mazin, the Congressional Affairs Advisor of the US Department of State, and Ted Sobel, the Director of Physical screening & Redress Policy of the US Department of Homeland Security, to discuss new programs and efforts to increase tourism of foreign visitors. Security programs will be updated: The TSA Pre-Check program will be expanded, and the Global Entry Program will be made permanent, making it simpler to get to the United States. There will also be changes in visa processing with a focus on increasing non-immigrant visa processing in China and Brazil by 40% in 2012, expediting the application interview process in order to make plans to travel to the US quicker and easier. Interviews and fingerprint collection requirements for qualified applications holding Brazilian passports who are younger than 16 or older than 66 will be waived, which will make traveling to the US more accessible. The continued tourist promotion of foreign tourists into the U.S. drives job creation, and is fundamental to our economic development.

**Wednesday, March 14, 2012  
1:30-3:00pm  
121 Cannon Building**

Questions from the audience will be answered and encouraged. This will be a very informative briefing that we hope you will attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the CTTC Co-Chair staffers, Tom Tucker with Rep. Sam Farr (5-2861)