



U.S.-Morocco FTA Coalition

The U.S.-Morocco FTA Coalition supports the negotiation and passage of a comprehensive and commercially meaningful U.S. - Morocco Free Trade Agreement

Co-Chairs

Laura Lane
Time Warner Inc.

George Pickart
CMS Energy

Secretariat

**Business Council for
International
Understanding**
1133 15th Street, N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005
Tel. 202-775-6074
www.bciu.org

**National Foreign Trade
Council**
1625 K Street, N.W.
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20006
Tel. 202-887-0278
www.nftc.org

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Contact: Elizabeth-Ann Chandler
Fratelli Group for NFTC
202/822-9491
Jeff Donald for BCIU
202/775-6074

U.S.-Morocco FTA Coalition Praises Congress For Strong Approval in Mock Mark Up; Urges Completion Before August Recess

Washington, DC – The U.S.-Morocco FTA Coalition praised members of the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee for the strong bi-partisan support given to the draft U.S.-Morocco FTA implementing legislation, which yesterday was approved almost unanimously and without amendment in both the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee.

“The strong vote in favor of the draft implementing legislation clearly demonstrates the strong bipartisan support for the U.S.-Morocco FTA. It is a win-win agreement for both the United States and Morocco and the action yesterday brings up one step closer to making this agreement a reality,” said Mary Irace, Vice President for Trade and Export Finance of the National Foreign Trade Council.

The Senate Finance Committee voted 20-1 to approve the draft implementing legislation and the House Ways and Means Committee voted 23-1 with one voting present to approve the draft.

“Clearly there is growing momentum in favor of this historic agreement, and we urge Congress to bring the agreement before the full House and Senate before the August recess,” stated Laura Lane, Vice President, Public Policy of Time Warner and Co-Chairman of the U.S.-Morocco FTA Coalition.

In early 2003, the Bush Administration announced the beginning of the FTA talks and the goal of completing them by the end of 2003. The U.S. business community through the U.S.-Morocco FTA Coalition has championed the conclusion of a comprehensive, high-standard FTA with Morocco since the coalition’s formation in early 2003. Currently, the coalition has approximately 100 members.

In addition to the economic and trade benefits of the FTA, the U.S.-Morocco FTA Coalition views the FTA as a strategic agreement with a longstanding moderate Muslim Arab ally and friend of the United States and as key component of the Bush Administration’s plan to achieve a U.S.-Middle East Free Trade Area by 2013.

The National Foreign Trade Council is a leading business organization advocating an open, rules-based world economy. Founded in 1914 by a group of American companies that supported an open world trading system, the NFTC now serves 350 member companies through its offices in Washington and New York.

The Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU), a U.S. business association founded in 1959 at White House initiative, is dedicated to promoting dialogue and action between the business and government communities for the purpose of expanding international commerce.

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