



**For Immediate Release
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**AmCham Abu Dhabi Conducts Successful 2016 Advocacy
Trade Mission in Washington, D.C.**

***Export Promotion, Foreign Direct Investment and Taxation Issues
Emphasized in Meetings Across the Nation's Capital***

Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. – AmCham Abu Dhabi conducted a high profile Trade Mission in Washington D.C. comprised of American Chambers of Commerce from the U.A.E. and the AmCham Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Council from June 19-24, 2016. The delegation represented the 4,000 member strong AmCham MENA Regional Council, with representatives from AmCham Abu Dhabi and AmCham Egypt. This year representatives from the American Business Council of Dubai and the Northern Emirates joined the delegation.

Continuing a 16-year tradition of conducting advocacy missions for the benefit of AmCham members, the delegation was led by Sharief Fahmy, Chairman of AmCham Abu Dhabi's U.S.-U.A.E. Public Affairs Committee, and Michael Dishman, Chairman of the Committee's U.S. Working Group. Members of the AmCham delegation represented a variety of industry sectors including construction, defense, engineering, finance, IT, legal, logistics, services and trade.

The delegates focused on “**Pro-Expat = Pro-Trade = Pro-Job Creation**” policy positions in 50+ meetings with Congress, Obama Administration officials and trade and industry associations. Key stakeholders were informed about the many trade, investment and expatriate issues impacted when Congress formulates trade and tax laws and the government takes policy positions and implements regulations.

Trade Mission delegates argued for reasonable amendments to the I.R.S. Tax Code, which would enable Americans working overseas to compete equally against nationals of other industrialized nations present in the same job market. With the U.A.E. being the 15th largest export market for U.S. goods in the world, delegates underscored the need to implement export regulation reforms that bolster U.S. exports to the region, thereby creating jobs in the U.S.

Sharief Fahmy summarized at every opportunity the key policy objective underlying the Trade Mission's agenda: "In an increasingly competitive global market place it is important to support American citizens abroad as they represent U.S. companies exporting goods and services. Our message is simple: Americans Abroad = Exports = U.S. Job Creation."

On Capitol Hill, meetings were conducted with a broad diversity of decision makers, including Members, Chiefs of Staff and legislative aides in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. In addition the delegates briefed senior staff in the House Ways & Means Committee, House Foreign Affairs Committee, Senate Finance Committee, Senate Armed Services Committee, and Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Meetings with Obama Administration officials were held at the U.S. Departments of Treasury, State and Commerce as well as the U.S. Export-Import Bank. Briefings and policy discussions were also conducted with trade and industry associations including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.



AmCham Abu Dhabi Trade Delegation with Steve Lutes, Executive Director Middle East Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Left to right: John McGowan, Anne Jafery, Michael Dishman, Elias Sayah, Sharief Fahmy, Steve Lutes, Carin Rising, Bilal Sabouni, Theresa F. Weber and Zaheer Anis.

To honor the strong U.S.-U.A.E. relationship and welcome the visiting Advocacy Week delegation, a reception was held on Capitol Hill organized by AmCham Abu Dhabi, American Business Council of Dubai, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council. Two key supporters spoke to the sold out crowd: Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs MENA Subcommittee and Yousef Al Otaiba, U.A.E. Ambassador to the U.S. As 2016 marks the 30th Anniversary of AmCham Abu Dhabi, Ambassador Al Otaiba was presented with a Pearl award thanking him for his outstanding commitment to the enhancement of U.S.-U.A.E. commerce, trade and investment.



Left to right: Yousef Al Otaiba, U.A.E. Ambassador to the U.S.; Sharief Fahmy, Chairman, AmCham Abu Dhabi; Elias Sayah, Board Member, AmCham Abu Dhabi; Theresa F. Weber, Executive Director, AmCham Abu Dhabi.

Key members of the AmCham delegation also attended the SelectUSA Investment Summit 2016, where President Barack Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry and Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker delivered keynote addresses about Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the U.S.

A formal report regarding the Advocacy Week in Washington D.C. will be shared with AmCham members. To enhance our advocacy efforts throughout the year, AmCham Abu Dhabi has engaged Williams and Jensen, a Washington, D.C. based high profile lobby firm.

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Notes to the Editors:

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About AmCham Abu Dhabi's U.S.-U.A.E. Public Affairs Committee:

The U.S.-U.A.E. Public Affairs Committee U.S. Working Group is responsible for AmCham Abu Dhabi's participation in regional trade associations and for leading AmCham Abu Dhabi's advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. Our advocacy efforts are primarily directed toward promoting U.S. policies that encourage export-driven commerce and investment in the region, as well as tax policies designed to keep Americans competitive overseas. More information can be found on the U.S. Public Affairs Committee page on AmCham's website: www.AmChamAbuDhabi.org

About AmCham Abu Dhabi:

AmCham Abu Dhabi (the trademark of the American Business Group of Abu Dhabi) is a member of the global network of American Chambers of Commerce. Active since 1986, the AmCham Abu Dhabi mission has been to promote commerce, investment and goodwill between the United States of America, the membership, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and the United Arab Emirates. AmCham Abu Dhabi is an independent, not-for-profit association comprised of Fortune 500 corporations, small and medium sized companies and prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs. AmCham Abu Dhabi provides a uniquely situated platform through which executives pursue and discuss issues impacting business operations between the U.S. and U.A.E. Substantive government advocacy programs, educational and networking programs and customized business service are just a few of the many benefits AmCham Abu Dhabi provides its members. Through the support of its members, AmCham Abu Dhabi has become the recognized voice of U.S. business in Abu Dhabi, the capital city of the United Arab Emirates. For more information, visit: www.AmChamAbuDhabi.org



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