111TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

S. 1023

AN ACT

To establish a non-profit corporation to communicate United States entry policies and otherwise promote leisure, business, and scholarly travel to the United States.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- 2 (a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the
- 3 "Travel Promotion Act of 2009".
- 4 (b) Table of Contents for
- 5 this Act is as follows:
 - Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 - Sec. 2. The Corporation for Travel Promotion.
 - Sec. 3. Accountability measures.
 - Sec. 4. Matching public and private funding.
 - Sec. 5. Travel promotion fund fees.
 - Sec. 6. Assessment authority.
 - Sec. 7. Office of Travel Promotion.
 - Sec. 8. Research program.

6 SEC. 2. THE CORPORATION FOR TRAVEL PROMOTION.

- 7 (a) Establishment.—The Corporation for Travel
- 8 Promotion is established as a nonprofit corporation. The
- 9 Corporation shall not be an agency or establishment of
- 10 the United States Government. The Corporation shall be
- 11 subject to the provisions of the District of Columbia Non-
- 12 profit Corporation Act (D.C. Code, section 29–1001 et
- 13 seq.), to the extent that such provisions are consistent
- 14 with this section, and shall have the powers conferred
- 15 upon a nonprofit corporation by that Act to carry out its
- 16 purposes and activities.
- 17 (b) Board of Directors.—
- 18 (1) In General.—The Corporation shall have
- a board of directors of 11 members with knowledge
- of international travel promotion and marketing,
- 21 broadly representing various regions of the United
- States, who are United States citizens. Members of

1	the board shall be appointed by the Secretary of
2	Commerce (after consultation with the Secretary of
3	Homeland Security and the Secretary of State), as
4	follows:
5	(A) 1 shall have appropriate expertise and
6	experience in the hotel accommodations sector;
7	(B) 1 shall have appropriate expertise and
8	experience in the restaurant sector;
9	(C) 1 shall have appropriate expertise and
10	experience in the small business or retail sector
11	or in associations representing that sector;
12	(D) 1 shall have appropriate expertise and
13	experience in the travel distribution services
14	sector;
15	(E) 1 shall have appropriate expertise and
16	experience in the attractions or recreations sec-
17	tor;
18	(F) 1 shall have appropriate expertise and
19	experience as officials of a city convention and
20	visitors' bureau;
21	(G) 2 shall have appropriate expertise and
22	experience as officials of a State tourism office;
23	(H) 1 shall have appropriate expertise and
24	experience in the passenger air sector;

1	(I) 1 shall have appropriate expertise and
2	experience in immigration law and policy, in-
3	cluding visa requirements and United States
4	entry procedures; and
5	(J) 1 shall have appropriate expertise in
6	the intercity passenger railroad business.
7	(2) Incorporation.—The members of the ini-
8	tial board of directors shall serve as incorporators
9	and shall take whatever actions are necessary to es-
10	tablish the Corporation under the District of Colum-
11	bia Nonprofit Corporation Act (D.C. Code, section
12	29–301.01 et seq.).
13	(3) TERM OF OFFICE.—The term of office of
14	each member of the board appointed by the Sec-
15	retary shall be 3 years, except that, of the members
16	first appointed—
17	(A) 3 shall be appointed for terms of 1
18	year;
19	(B) 4 shall be appointed for terms of 2
20	years; and
21	(C) 4 shall be appointed for terms of 3
22	years.
23	(4) Removal for Cause.—The Secretary of
24	Commerce may remove any member of the board for
25	good cause.

- 1 (5) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the board 2 shall not affect its power, but shall be filled in the 3 manner required by this section. Any member whose term has expired may serve until the member's suc-5 cessor has taken office, or until the end of the cal-6 endar year in which the member's term has expired, 7 whichever is earlier. Any member appointed to fill a 8 vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term 9 for which that member's predecessor was appointed 10 shall be appointed for the remainder of the predecessor's term. No member of the board shall be eligi-12 ble to serve more than 2 consecutive full 3-year 13 terms.
 - (6) Election of Chairman and Vice Chair-MAN.—Members of the board shall annually elect one of the members to be Chairman and elect 1 or 2 of the members as Vice Chairman or Vice Chairmen.
 - (7) Status as federal employees.—Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no member of the board may be considered to be a Federal employee of the United States by virtue of his or her service as a member of the board.
 - (8) Compensation; expenses.—No member shall receive any compensation from the Federal

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government for serving on the Board. Each member of the Board shall be paid actual travel expenses and per diem in lieu of subsistence expenses when away from his or her usual place of residence, in accordance with section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) Officers and Employees.—

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(1) In General.—The Corporation shall have an executive director and such other officers as may be named and appointed by the board for terms and at rates of compensation fixed by the board. No individual other than a citizen of the United States may be an officer of the Corporation. The Corporation may hire and fix the compensation of such employees as may be necessary to carry out its purposes. No officer or employee of the Corporation may receive any salary or other compensation (except for compensation for services on boards of directors of other organizations that do not receive funds from the Corporation, on committees of such boards, and in similar activities for such organizations) from any sources other than the Corporation for services rendered during the period of his or her employment by the Corporation. Service by any officer on boards of directors of other organizations, on 1 committees of such boards, and in similar activities 2 for such organizations shall be subject to annual ad-3 vance approval by the board and subject to the provisions of the Corporation's Statement of Ethical Conduct. All officers and employees shall serve at 5

the pleasure of the board.

- 7 (2)Nonpolitical NATURE OF APPOINT-8 MENT.—No political test or qualification shall be 9 used in selecting, appointing, promoting, or taking 10 other personnel actions with respect to officers,
- 12 (d) Nonprofit and Nonpolitical Nature of 13 Corporation.—

agents, or employees of the Corporation.

- 14 (1) Stock.—The Corporation shall have no 15 power to issue any shares of stock, or to declare or 16 pay any dividends.
- 17 (2) Profit.—No part of the income or assets 18 of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any 19 director, officer, employee, or any other individual 20 except as salary or reasonable compensation for services.
- 22 (3) Politics.—The Corporation may not con-23 tribute to or otherwise support any political party or 24 candidate for elective public office.

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1	(4) Sense of congress regarding lobbying
2	ACTIVITIES.—It is the sense of Congress that the
3	Corporation should not engage in lobbying activities
4	(as defined in section 3(7) of the Lobbying Disclo-
5	sure Act of 1995 (5 U.S.C. 1602(7)).
6	(e) Duties and Powers.—
7	(1) In General.—The Corporation shall de-
8	velop and execute a plan—
9	(A) to provide useful information to for-
10	eign tourists, business people, students, schol-
11	ars, scientists, and others interested in traveling
12	to the United States, including the distribution
13	of material provided by the Federal government
14	concerning entry requirements, required docu-
15	mentation, fees, processes, and information con-
16	cerning declared public health emergencies, to
17	prospective travelers, travel agents, tour opera-
18	tors, meeting planners, foreign governments,
19	travel media and other international stake-
20	holders;
21	(B) to identify, counter, and correct
22	misperceptions regarding United States entry
23	policies around the world;
24	(C) to maximize the economic and diplo-
25	matic benefits of travel to the United States by

1	promoting the United States of America to
2	world travelers through the use of, but not lim-
3	ited to, all forms of advertising, outreach to
4	trade shows, and other appropriate promotional
5	activities;
6	(D) to ensure that international travel ben-
7	efits all States and the District of Columbia
8	and to identify opportunities and strategies to
9	promote tourism to rural and urban areas
10	equally, including areas not traditionally visited
11	by international travelers; and
12	(E) to give priority to the Corporation's ef-
13	forts with respect to countries and populations
14	most likely to travel to the United States.
15	(2) Specific powers.—In order to carry out
16	the purposes of this section, the Corporation may—
17	(A) obtain grants from and make contracts
18	with individuals and private companies, State,
19	and Federal agencies, organizations, and insti-
20	tutions;
21	(B) hire or accept the voluntary services of
22	consultants, experts, advisory boards, and pan-
23	els to aid the Corporation in carrying out its
24	purposes; and

1	(C) take such other actions as may be nec-
2	essary to accomplish the purposes set forth in
3	this section.
4	(3) Public outreach and information.—
5	The Corporation shall develop and maintain a pub-
6	licly accessible website.
7	(f) Open Meetings.—Meetings of the board of di-
8	rectors of the Corporation, including any committee of the
9	board, shall be open to the public. The board may, by ma-
10	jority vote, close any such meeting only for the time nec-
11	essary to preserve the confidentiality of commercial or fi-
12	nancial information that is privileged or confidential, to
13	discuss personnel matters, or to discuss legal matters af-
14	fecting the Corporation, including pending or potential liti-
15	gation.
16	(g) Major Campaigns.—The board may not author-
17	ize the Corporation to obligate or expend more than
18	\$25,000,000 on any advertising campaign, promotion, or
19	related effort unless—
20	(1) the obligation or expenditure is approved by
21	an affirmative vote of at least 2/3 of the members of
22	the board present at the meeting;
23	(2) at least 6 members of the board are present
24	at the meeting at which it is approved; and

1 (3) each member of the board has been given 2 at least 3 days advance notice of the meeting at 3 which the vote is to be taken and the matters to be 4 voted upon at that meeting.

(h) FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY.—

- (1) FISCAL YEAR.—The Corporation shall establish as its fiscal year the 12-month period beginning on October 1.
- (2) Budget.—The Corporation shall adopt a budget for each fiscal year.
 - (3) Annual Audits.—The Corporation shall engage an independent accounting firm to conduct an annual financial audit of the Corporation's operations and shall publish the results of the audit. The Comptroller General of the United States may review any audit of a financial statement conducted under this subsection by an independent accounting firm and may audit the Corporation's operations at the discretion of the Comptroller General. The Comptroller General and the Congress shall have full and complete access to the books and records of the Corporation.
 - (4) Program audits.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall conduct a review of the pro-

- 1 grammatic activities of the Corporation for Travel
- 2 Promotion. This report shall be provided to appro-
- 3 priate congressional committees.

4 SEC. 3. ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.

- 5 (a) Objectives.—The Board shall establish annual
- 6 objectives for the Corporation for each fiscal year subject
- 7 to approval by the Secretary of Commerce (after consulta-
- 8 tion with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Sec-
- 9 retary of State). The Corporation shall establish a mar-
- 10 keting plan for each fiscal year not less than 60 days be-
- 11 fore the beginning of that year and provide a copy of the
- 12 plan, and any revisions thereof, to the Secretary.
- 13 (b) BUDGET.—The board shall transmit a copy of the
- 14 Corporation's budget for the forthcoming fiscal year to the
- 15 Secretary not less than 60 days before the beginning of
- 16 each fiscal year, together with an explanation of any ex-
- 17 penditure provided for by the budget in excess of
- 18 \$5,000,000 for the fiscal year. The Corporation shall
- 19 make a copy of the budget and the explanation available
- 20 to the public and shall provide public access to the budget
- 21 and explanation on the Corporation's website.
- 22 (c) Annual Report to Congress.—The Corpora-
- 23 tion shall submit an annual report for the preceding fiscal
- 24 year to the Secretary of Commerce for transmittal to the

1	Congress on or before the 15th day of May of each year.
2	The report shall include—
3	(1) a comprehensive and detailed report of the
4	Corporation's operations, activities, financial condi-
5	tion, and accomplishments under this Act;
6	(2) a comprehensive and detailed inventory of
7	amounts obligated or expended by the Corporation
8	during the preceding fiscal year;
9	(3) a detailed description of each in-kind con-
10	tribution, its fair market value, the individual or or-
11	ganization responsible for contributing, its specific
12	use, and a justification for its use within the context
13	of the Corporation's mission;
14	(4) an objective and quantifiable measurement
15	of its progress, on an objective-by-objective basis, in
16	meeting the objectives established by the board;
17	(5) an explanation of the reason for any failure
18	to achieve an objective established by the board and
19	any revisions or alterations to the Corporation's ob-
20	jectives under subsection (a);
21	(6) a comprehensive and detailed report of the
22	Corporation's operations and activities to promote
23	tourism in rural and urban areas; and
24	(7) such recommendations as the Corporation
25	deems appropriate.

- 1 (d) Limitation on Use of Funds.—Amounts de-
- 2 posited in the Fund may not be used for any purpose in-
- 3 consistent with carrying out the objectives, budget, and
- 4 report described in this section.

5 SEC. 4. MATCHING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDING.

- 6 (a) Establishment of Travel Promotion
- 7 Fund.—There is hereby established in the Treasury a
- 8 fund which shall be known as the Travel Promotion Fund.
- 9 (b) Funding.—
- 10 (1) Start-up expenses.—For fiscal year
- 11 2010, the Secretary of the Treasury shall make
- available to the Corporation such sums as may be
- necessary, but not to exceed \$10,000,000, from
- amounts deposited in the general fund of the Treas-
- ury from fees under section 217(h)(3)(B)(i)(I) of the
- 16 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
- 17 1187(h)(3)(B)(i)(I) to cover the Corporation's ini-
- tial expenses and activities under this Act. Transfers
- shall be made at least quarterly, beginning on Octo-
- ber 1, 2009, on the basis of estimates by the Sec-
- 21 retary, and proper adjustments shall be made in
- amounts subsequently transferred to the extent prior
- estimates were in excess or less than the amounts
- required to be transferred.

(2) Subsequent years.—For each of fiscal 1 2 years 2011 through 2014, from amounts deposited 3 in the general fund of the Treasury during the pre-4 ceding fiscal year from fees under section 5 217(h)(3)(B)(i)(I) of the Immigration and Nation-6 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187(h)(B)(i)(I)), the Secretary 7 of the Treasury shall transfer not more than 8 \$100,000,000 to the Fund, which shall be made 9 available to the Corporation, subject to subsection 10 (c) of this section, to carry out its functions under 11 this Act. Transfers shall be made at least quarterly 12 on the basis of estimates by the Secretary, and prop-13 er adjustments shall be made in amounts subse-14 quently transferred to the extent prior estimates 15 were in excess or less than the amounts required to 16 be transferred.

(c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

- (1) In General.—No amounts may be made available to the Corporation under this section after fiscal year 2010, except to the extent that—
 - (A) for fiscal year 2011, the Corporation provides matching amounts from non-Federal sources equal in the aggregate to 50 percent or more of the amount transferred to the Fund under subsection (b); and

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1	(B) for any fiscal year after fiscal year
2	2011, the Corporation provides matching
3	amounts from non-Federal sources equal in the
4	aggregate to 100 percent of the amount trans-
5	ferred to the Fund under subsection (b) for the
6	fiscal year.
7	(2) Goods and services.—For the purpose of
8	determining the amount received from non-Federal
9	sources by the Corporation, other than money—
10	(A) the fair market value of goods and
11	services (including advertising) contributed to
12	the Corporation for use under this Act may be
13	included in the determination; but
14	(B) the fair market value of such goods
15	and services may not account for more than 80
16	percent of the matching requirement under
17	paragraph (1) for the Corporation in any fiscal
18	year.
19	(3) Right of Refusal.—The Corporation may
20	decline to accept any contribution in-kind that it de-
21	termines to be inappropriate, not useful, or commer-
22	cially worthless.
23	(4) Limitation.—The Corporation may not ob-
24	ligate or expend funds in excess of the total amount

1	received by the Corporation for a fiscal year from
2	Federal and non-Federal sources.
3	(d) Carryforward.—
4	(1) Federal funds.—Amounts transferred to
5	the Fund under subsection (b)(2) shall remain avail-
6	able until expended.
7	(2) Matching funds.—Any amount received
8	by the Corporation from non-Federal sources in fis-
9	cal year 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, or 2014 that can-
10	not be used to meet the matching requirement under
11	subsection $(c)(1)$ for the fiscal year in which amount
12	was collected may be carried forward and treated as
13	having been received in the succeeding fiscal year for
14	purposes of meeting the matching requirement of
15	subsection $(c)(1)$ in such succeeding fiscal year.
16	SEC. 5. TRAVEL PROMOTION FUND FEES.
17	Section 217(h)(3)(B) of the Immigration and Nation-
18	ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187(h)(3)(B)) is amended to read as
19	follows:
20	"(B) Fees.—
21	"(i) In general.—No later than
22	September 30, 2009, the Secretary of
23	Homeland Security shall establish a fee for
24	the use of the System and begin assess-

1	ment and collection of that fee. The initial
2	fee shall be the sum of—
3	"(I) \$10 per travel authorization;
4	and
5	"(II) an amount that will at least
6	ensure recovery of the full costs of
7	providing and administering the Sys-
8	tem, as determined by the Secretary.
9	"(ii) Disposition of amounts col-
10	LECTED.—Amounts collected under clause
11	(i)(I) shall be credited to the Travel Pro-
12	motion Fund established by section 4 of
13	the Travel Promotion Act of 2009.
14	Amounts collected under clause (i)(II)
15	shall be transferred to the general fund of
16	the Treasury and made available to pay
17	the costs incurred to administer the Sys-
18	tem.
19	"(iii) Sunset of travel promotion
20	FUND FEE.—The Secretary may not collect
21	the fee authorized by clause (i)(I) for fiscal
22	years beginning after September 30,
23	2014.".

1 SEC. 6. ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY.

2	(a) In General.—Except as otherwise provided in
3	this section, the Corporation may impose an annual as-
4	sessment on United States members of the international
5	travel and tourism industry (other than those described
6	in section $2(b)(1)(C)$ or (H)) represented on the Board
7	in proportion to their share of the aggregate international
8	travel and tourism revenue of the industry. The Corpora-
9	tion shall be responsible for verifying, implementing, and
10	collecting the assessment authorized by this section.
11	(b) Initial Assessment Limited.—The Corpora-
12	tion may establish the initial assessment after the date
13	of enactment of the Travel and Tourism Promotion Act
14	at no greater, in the aggregate, than \$20,000,000.
15	(e) Referenda.—
16	(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation may not
17	impose an annual assessment unless—
18	(A) the Corporation submits the proposed
19	annual assessment to members of the industry
20	in a referendum; and
21	(B) the assessment is approved by a ma-
22	jority of those voting in the referendum.
23	(2) Procedural requirements.—In con-
24	ducting a referendum under this subsection, the Cor-
25	poration shall—

- 1 (A) provide written or electronic notice not 2 less than 60 days before the date of the ref-3 erendum;
 - (B) describe the proposed assessment or increase and explain the reasons for the referendum in the notice; and
 - (C) determine the results of the referendum on the basis of weighted voting apportioned according to each business entity's relative share of the aggregate annual United States international travel and tourism revenue for the industry per business entity, treating all related entities as a single entity.

(d) Collection.—

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- (1) In General.—The Corporation shall establish a means of collecting the assessment that it finds to be efficient and effective. The Corporation may establish a late payment charge and rate of interest to be imposed on any person who fails to remit or pay to the Corporation any amount assessed by the Corporation under this Act.
- (2) Enforcement.—The Corporation may bring suit in Federal court to compel compliance with an assessment levied by the Corporation under this Act.

- 1 (e) Investment of Funds.—Pending disbursement
- 2 pursuant to a program, plan, or project, the Corporation
- 3 may invest funds collected through assessments, and any
- 4 other funds received by the Corporation, only in obliga-
- 5 tions of the United States or any agency thereof, in gen-
- 6 eral obligations of any State or any political subdivision
- 7 thereof, in any interest-bearing account or certificate of
- 8 deposit of a bank that is a member of the Federal Reserve
- 9 System, or in obligations fully guaranteed as to principal
- 10 and interest by the United States.
- 11 SEC. 7. OFFICE OF TRAVEL PROMOTION.
- Title II of the International Travel Act of 1961 (22)
- 13 U.S.C. 2121 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section
- 14 201 the following:
- 15 "SEC. 202. OFFICE OF TRAVEL PROMOTION.
- 16 "(a) Office Established.—There is established
- 17 within the Department of Commerce an office to be known
- 18 as the Office of Travel Promotion.
- 19 "(b) Director.—
- 20 "(1) Appointment.—The Office shall be head-
- 21 ed by a Director who shall be appointed by the Sec-
- retary.
- 23 "(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Director shall be a
- 24 citizen of the United States and have experience in

1	a field directly related to the promotion of travel to
2	and within the United States.
3	"(3) Duties.—The Director shall be respon-
4	sible for ensuring the office is carrying out its func-
5	tions effectively and shall report to the Secretary.
6	"(c) Functions.—The Office shall—
7	"(1) serve as liaison to the Corporation for
8	Travel Promotion established by section 2 of the
9	Travel Promotion Act of 2009 and support and en-
10	courage the development of programs to increase the
11	number of international visitors to the United States
12	for business, leisure, educational, medical, exchange,
13	and other purposes;
14	"(2) work with the Corporation, the Secretary
15	of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security—
16	"(A) to disseminate information more ef-
17	fectively to potential international visitors about
18	documentation and procedures required for ad-
19	mission to the United States as a visitor;
20	"(B) to ensure that arriving international
21	visitors are generally welcomed with accurate
22	information and in an inviting manner;
23	"(C) to collect accurate data on the total
24	number of international visitors that visit each
25	State; and

- 1 "(D) enhance the entry and departure ex-
- 2 perience for international visitors through the
- 3 use of advertising, signage, and customer serv-
- 4 ice; and
- 5 "(3) support State, regional, and private sector
- 6 initiatives to promote travel to and within the
- 7 United States.
- 8 "(d) Reports to Congress.—Within a year after
- 9 the date of enactment of the Travel Promotion Act of
- 10 2009, and periodically thereafter as appropriate, the Sec-
- 11 retary shall transmit a report to the Senate Committee
- 12 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Senate
- 13 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
- 14 fairs, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the
- 15 House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Com-
- 16 merce, the House of Representatives Committee on Home-
- 17 land Security, and the House of Representatives Com-
- 18 mittee on Foreign Affairs describing the Office's work
- 19 with the Corporation, the Secretary of State and the Sec-
- 20 retary of Homeland Security to carry out subsection
- 21 (c)(2).".
- 22 SEC. 8. RESEARCH PROGRAM.
- Title II of the International Travel Act of 1961 (22)
- 24 U.S.C. 2121 et seq.), as amended by section 7, is further
- 25 amended by inserting after section 202 the following:

1 "SEC. 203. RESEARCH PROGRAM.

2	"(a) In General.—The Office of Travel and Tour-
3	ism Industries shall expand and continue its research and
4	development activities in connection with the promotion of
5	international travel to the United States, including—
6	"(1) expanding access to the official Mexican
7	travel surveys data to provide the States with trav-
8	eler characteristics and visitation estimates for tar-
9	geted marketing programs;
10	"(2) expanding the number of inbound air trav-
11	elers sampled by the Commerce Department's Sur-
12	vey of International Travelers to reach a 1 percent
13	sample size and revising the design and format of
14	questionnaires to accommodate a new survey instru-
15	ment, improve response rates to at least double the
16	number of States and cities with reliable inter-
17	national visitor estimates and improve market cov-
18	erage;
19	"(3) developing estimates of international travel
20	exports (expenditures) on a State-by-State basis to
21	enable each State to compare its comparative posi-
22	tion to national totals and other States;
23	"(4) evaluate the success of the Corporation in
24	achieving its objectives and carrying out the pur-
25	poses of the Travel Promotion Act of 2009; and

- 1 "(5) research to support the annual reports re-
- 2 quired by section 202(d) of this Act.
- 3 "(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
- 4 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Com-
- 5 merce for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 such sums as
- 6 may be necessary to carry out this section.".

Passed the Senate September 9, 2009.

Attest:

Secretary.

111 TH CONGRESS S. 1023

AN ACT

To establish a non-profit corporation to communicate United States entry policies and otherwise promote leisure, business, and scholarly travel to the United States.