

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5146

To provide for certain actions by the International Trade Administration in order to increase exports by small- and medium-sized enterprises, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2016

Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. HIMES, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. POLIS, Mr. KILMER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. KIND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide for certain actions by the International Trade Administration in order to increase exports by small- and medium-sized enterprises, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Boosting America’s
5 Exports Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) COMMERCIAL SERVICE.—The term “Com-
2 mercial Service” means the United States and For-
3 eign Commercial Service of the Department of Com-
4 merce.

5 (2) DIRECTOR GENERAL.—The term “Director
6 General” means the Assistant Secretary for Global
7 Markets and Director General of the United States
8 and Foreign Commercial Service.

9 (3) SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTER-
10 PRISES.—The term “small- and medium-sized enter-
11 prises” or “SMEs” means—

12 (A) subject to subparagraph (B), firms
13 with less than 500 employees; and

14 (B) in the case of a farm, a farm with
15 fewer than 500 employees that generates less
16 than \$250,000 in income.

17 (4) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under
18 Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce
19 for International Trade.

20 (5) USEAC.—The term “United States Export
21 Assistance Center” or “USEAC” means a United
22 States Export Assistance Center established by the
23 Commercial Service to provide assistance to United
24 States firms in exporting their goods and services.

1 **SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT OF U.S. EXPORT ASSISTANCE CEN-**
2 **TERS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary shall con-
4 duct an assessment of the location of and services provided
5 by the United States Export Assistance Centers in relation
6 to the location of SMEs that are exporters or potential
7 exporters of products or services. The Under Secretary
8 shall, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
9 of this Act, complete the assessment and submit to Con-
10 gress a report on the assessment. In the report, the Under
11 Secretary shall identify those locations of USEACs that
12 should be closed or moved based on low productivity, and
13 those locations where a USEAC should be located based
14 on need.

15 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Under Secretary shall
16 implement the changes recommended in the report sub-
17 mitted to Congress under subsection (a) not later than 2
18 years after the date of the enactment of this Act. The
19 Under Secretary may establish up to 30 new USEACs on
20 the basis of the report.

21 **SEC. 4. ACTIVITIES OF COMMERCIAL SERVICE.**

22 (a) INCREASED ACTIVITIES.—The Under Secretary
23 shall take the necessary steps, through actions by the
24 Commercial Service, to increase the exports, by volume
25 and types of products and services, by small- and medium-
26 sized enterprises. In order to achieve that goal, the Direc-

1 tor General shall set goals and measure exports by SMEs
2 in each calendar year, in particular exports by SMEs that
3 had not exported previously, including measuring—

4 (1) the total volume of exports, by product and
5 type of services, including as compared to the vol-
6 ume of such exports in the preceding calendar year;

7 (2) the number of non-exporting SMEs con-
8 tacted through recruitment efforts of the Commer-
9 cial Service;

10 (3) the number of new SMEs exporting in the
11 calendar year; and

12 (4) customer service, such as response times
13 and customer satisfaction, to SMEs that contact
14 USEACs, in particular non-exporting SMEs.

15 (b) PERSONNEL FOR USEACs.—The Under Sec-
16 retary shall ensure that the following is carried out upon
17 the implementation of the report submitted under section
18 3:

19 (1) FUNCTIONS OF PERSONNEL.—Personnel at
20 each USEAC shall identify and conduct outreach to
21 potential exporters that are SMEs, attend relevant
22 business conferences and trade shows to advertise
23 the availability of the resources of the USEAC to
24 SMEs, and perform other tasks designed to help
25 non-exporting SMEs become exporters.

1 (2) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—The Under Sec-
2 retary shall, in the case of those USEACs that the
3 report submitted to Congress under section 3 rec-
4 ommends remain open, increase the personnel at
5 those USEACs (by an average of not more than 5
6 for each USEAC) to the extent necessary to enhance
7 the ability of the USEACs, through outreach and
8 provision of services to SMEs, to increase exports by
9 SMEs, in particular non-exporting SMEs.

10 (3) TRADE SPECIALISTS.—The Director Gen-
11 eral shall ensure that specialists in an increased
12 number of areas are on the staff of USEACs in
13 order to serve an increased number of SMEs.

14 (4) COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES.—
15 The Director General shall ensure that staff at each
16 USEAC is assigned to conduct outreach to and col-
17 laborate with entities of the States and other non-
18 Federal entities with respect to export promotion ac-
19 tivities designed to increase exports by SMEs.

20 (5) ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL.—The Direc-
21 tor General shall ensure that USEACs have per-
22 sonnel dedicated to administrative duties as needed
23 in order to enable other personnel to work more on
24 client-oriented tasks.

1 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

2 The Under Secretary shall submit to Congress an an-
3 nual report on the implementation of this Act, including
4 the actions of the Director General under section 4.

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