

January 16, 2008



To the Mid-Atlantic - Russia Business Council:

On behalf of the Office of International Business Development of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I would like to express our support for the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual Russian-American Innovation Technology Weeks (RANIT) being hosted by the Mid-Atlantic-Russia Business Council. The 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> RANIT events will be held during mid-June 2008 and mid-November 2008, respectively.

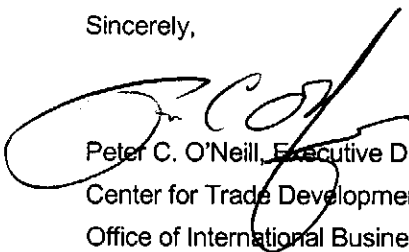
RANIT is the premier event in the Mid-Atlantic region dedicated to Russian-American technology cooperation, playing a vital role in fostering trade relations between businesses in the Commonwealth and Russia since its inception in 2003. RANIT represents the culmination of more than 10 years of efforts and events hosted by the Council to encourage Russian-American technology cooperation. I am pleased to report that a number of Pennsylvanian companies that participated in earlier RANIT events are now developing relationships with Russian firms and organizations. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania strongly supports the ultimate goal of RANIT: To establish Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic region as a major partner for Russian technology companies and a premier center of Russian-American technology cooperation.

As has traditionally been the pivotal focal point of each Spring RANIT, the focus of the 8<sup>th</sup> RANIT week will be biotechnology and related industries applying these biotechnological advancements. However, the 9<sup>th</sup> RANIT will highlight Russian capabilities from across the spectrum of all technology intensive industries.

The goal of the Office of International Business Development is to "Bring the World to Pennsylvania". In keeping with this goal, I would like to take this opportunity to announce our department's decision to establish a Pennsylvania Authorized Trade Representative (ATR) in Moscow-the first of its' kind by any U.S. State. This representative agreement went into effect this year, and we anticipate increased trade interest among Pennsylvania businesses as a result of this decision.

Enhancing Russia-Pennsylvania bilateral trade and investment ties is a priority for us in 2008. Therefore, we are proud to support RANIT, and we applaud the efforts of the Mid-Atlantic-Russia Business Council to foster commercial and technological relations between the Commonwealth and Russia.

Sincerely,



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