

March 11, 2014

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 **19th Annual Russian-American Innovation Technology Week (RANIT)** being hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Business Council. The 19th RANIT event will be held from March 12-15, 2014.

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 Commonwealth and Russia businesses since its inception in 2003. RANIT represents the culmination of 18 years of effort and events hosted by the Council to encourage Russian-American technology cooperation. I am pleased to report a number of Pennsylvania companies that participated in earlier RANIT events are now developing relationships with Russian firms and organization. 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.

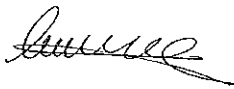
As has traditionally been the pivotal focal point during each Spring RANIT, the focus of the 19th RANIT week will be biotechnology, pharmaceutical industry, medical equipment, and life sciences with many sessions devoted to innovations. The 19th RANIT will also include discussions on policy changes that have come as a result of the "Comprehensive Program of Biotechnology Development in Russia to 2020" as well as Russia's entry into the WTO in August 2012 and its effect on the Russian-American partnership in the life sciences industry.

Our office is also proud to support **Days of Russian-American Innovation Entrepreneurship Cooperation (RAVC 2014)** which will be held in Philadelphia from October 27-29, 2014. It will include a roundtable event at the University City Science Center, the biggest and oldest technology park in the US where the first Russian company with an office at the Science Center will make a presentation.



The goal of the Office of International Business Development is to foster international trade and investment in Pennsylvania. Enhancing Pennsylvania-Russia bilateral trade and investment is a priority for us. Pennsylvania recently established an office in Moscow to assist Pennsylvania businesses with their export efforts into Russia. Considering that Russia is the world's 11th largest economy by nominal GDP and with over 140 million consumers, a growing middle class, and almost unlimited infrastructure needs, Russia is one of the most promising markets for U.S. exporters. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wilfred Muskens", written in a cursive style.

Wilfred Muskens
Deputy Secretary
Office of International Business Development