



COMMERCE NEWS

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**COMMERCE SECRETARY GARY LOCKE TO MEET WITH TRAVEL AND
TOURISM ADVISORY BOARD IN NEW ORLEANS**

Board will focus efforts on improving travel and tourism in the Gulf region

WASHINGTON – U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke will travel to New Orleans, La., Monday to host a meeting of the Travel and Tourism Advisory Board. The meeting will focus on supporting the U.S. travel and tourism industry, specifically in areas impacted by the Deepwater Horizon/BP oil spill.

The travel and tourism industry is a significant contributor to trade and economic development in the United States, and the Board will play a key role in the development of the administration's export policies. Monday's meeting will be the second meeting of the current Board – made up of 27 leaders from the travel and tourism industry.

Today, one out of every 16 Americans works, either directly or indirectly, in travel and tourism related industries. In 2009, the U.S. travel and tourism industry generated nearly \$1.3 trillion in economic output, supported 8.2 million American jobs and accounted for 24 percent of all U.S. services exports and 8 percent of total exports. Despite the recent economic downturn, the United States still enjoyed a \$22 billion trade surplus for travel and tourism in 2009.

WHO: U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke
WHAT: Travel and Tourism Advisory Board Meeting
WHEN: 1:00 p.m., Monday, July 26, 2010
**Press arrival time: 12:45 p.m.*
WHERE: Hilton Riverside Hotel – Compass Room
Two Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Media Coverage: This meeting is open to the press. To RSVP, please contact Shira Kramer at skramer@doc.gov.

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