



April 9, 2019

The Honorable John Curtis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
125 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Curtis:

The Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support the “Protecting U.S. Businesses Abroad Act.” This important legislation will provide critical protections against corruption in foreign countries and incentivize businesses to invest in otherwise high-risk areas around the world.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the U.S. directly invested over \$6 trillion abroad at the end of 2017. Although the United States works with foreign countries to promote a culture of integrity and corruption prevention, businesses—particularly small-businesses—face significant challenges when interfacing with foreign markets. Several factors including transparency, predictability, stability, accountability, and due process, impact the ability of any business to make good investment and operating decisions. When these factors are absent, corruption thrives, investment dollars flee, and tax revenues plummet.

As the federal government continues implementing a variety of tools to educate and assist investors and consumers operating abroad, the “Protecting U.S. Businesses Abroad Act,” will specifically target actors engaging in public sector corruption. This will include actions such as soliciting or accepting bribes, using the authority of the state to extort payments, obstructing or manipulating the impartial operation of judicial and law enforcement processes, expropriating assets without compensation, engaging in extortion through force, or conspiring to support such corruptible activities. Through this legislation, actors involved in and supporting public sector corruption will be ineligible for a visa to enter the United States.

We commend you for your leadership in combatting corruption and ensuring businesses have effective risk-management tools available as they consider investment opportunities abroad. We are pleased to endorse the “Protecting U.S. Businesses Abroad Act” and to assist in its passage in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

Derek Miller  
President & CEO, Salt Lake Chamber  
& Downtown Alliance