



# **MINUTES**

## **International Relations Committee**

**Monday, February 11, 2019**

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### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Jeff Edler

Representative Terry C. Baxter, Vice Chairperson  
Representative Ako Abdul-Samad  
Representative Karin Derry  
Representative Thomas D. Gerhold  
Representative Brian K. Lohse  
Representative Heather Matson

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### I. Procedural Business

**Background and Charge.** The International Relations Committee was created by the Legislative Council in 1992. The committee's charge is as follows: develop goals and procedures that will facilitate international communication between the Iowa General Assembly and foreign governments on several different levels, including but not limited to interpersonal interaction between state legislators and legislative staff and foreign visitors, instruction about state and local democratic institutions, and the development of trade in foreign markets.

**Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Baxter at 11:00 a.m., Monday, February 11, 2019, in Room 22 of the State Capitol Building in Des Moines.

**Draft Minutes.** Vice Chairperson Baxter noted that the minutes of the January 28, 2019, meeting are available on the committee's Internet page.

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

### II. Intelligence Briefing: Iowa National Guard

Brigadier General Shawn Ford, Iowa National Guard Deputy Adjutant General, provided committee members with an overview of the threat environment facing this state, its businesses, and the traveling public. He observed that cyber threats are inexpensive, and he described cyber espionage, cyber influence, and cyber attacks and the countries likely to implement such threats. He recommends that Iowans practice good cyber hygiene, wiping digital equipment when traveling or hosting international visitors. He described the efforts taken by a wing of the National Guard to protect Iowa's businesses from cyber attacks. In response to a question, he stated that Iowa's National Guard is interested in becoming a base of operations for the Predator B-Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles, but must wait for Congress and the U.S. Air Force to act.

### III. Iowa's International Economic Partnership: Presentation by Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA)

The committee received a presentation on Iowa's international trade assistance and global presence from Ms. Peggy Kerr, International Trade Office Team Leader and Marketing Manager, IEDA. She noted that the Business Roundtable has conducted good Iowa-based research, and she provided members with data regarding the number of jobs resulting from exports, the increased earnings for employees of businesses that export, Iowa's export performance, and top export markets. She spoke of the international trade assistance IEDA provides to Iowa businesses, large and small, including financial assistance and programming. In response to a question, she agreed that the 5 percent increase in jobs over a 10-year period seems small, but said the figures are conservative and based strictly on dollar value; she suggested that the Business Roundtable would likely have more complete data.

### IV. Materials Filed With the Legislative Services Agency

Materials distributed at or in connection with the meeting are filed with the Legislative Services Agency and may be accessed from the "Committee Documents" link on the committee's Internet Site at:

[www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/meetings/documents?committee=661&ga=ALL](http://www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/meetings/documents?committee=661&ga=ALL)

1. Iowa National Guard PowerPoint Document.
2. IEDA International Trade Folder and International Trade Office PowerPoint Document.