

International Economic Development Task Force

Sunday, February 13, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM | Location: Columbia 11 & 12, Terrace Level | [Livestream Link](#)

Task Force Leadership

Chair:	Hon. Stephanie Wright, Council Member, Snohomish County, Wash.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Felicia Franklin, Commissioner, Clayton County, Ga.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Joseph Guthrie, Supervisor, Pulaski County, Va.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Curt Hagman, Supervisor, San Bernardino County, Calif.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Martha Schrader, Commissioner, Clackamas County, Ore.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Kathryn Starkey, Commissioner, Pasco County, Fla.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Matthew Veitch, Supervisor, Saratoga County, N.Y.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Anthony Viegbesie, Commissioner, Gadsden County, Fla.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Sherri Washington, Commissioner, Rockdale County, Ga.

Meeting Agenda

1:30 PM: Call to Order and Welcome

- **Hon. Stephanie Wright**, Council Member, Snohomish County, Wash.

1:35 PM: Connecting Local Businesses to the Global Economy – Introduction

Two years after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, international trade and business still faces many disruptions and challenges. County leaders have the opportunity to help residents and businesses navigate these challenges by fostering international business connections and promoting their region abroad. Furthermore, counties provide the key infrastructure necessary for global trade to reach local economies. In this session, county leaders will connect with embassy and business representatives from top U.S. trading partners to learn about the importance of these nations' investments, as well as how counties can better connect with businesses from these nations.

- **Mr. Craig Allen**, President, U.S.-China Business Council
- **Mr. Andrew Jory**, Minister-Counsellor (Trade), Embassy of Australia
- **Dr. Ravi Kota**, Minister (Economic), Embassy of India

1:40 PM: Connecting Local Businesses to the Global Economy – China

Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with the U.S.-China Business Council to learn about the importance of Chinese investments in the U.S. economy, what Chinese businesses look for when they want to invest in an area of the U.S. or form business relationships with U.S. companies and how county leaders can help connect local businesses with businesses from China.

- **Mr. Craig Allen**, President, U.S.-China Business Council

2:05 PM: Connecting Local Businesses to the Global Economy – Australia

Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with the Embassy of Australia to learn about the importance of Australian investments in the U.S. economy, what Australian businesses look for when they want to invest in an area of the U.S. or form business relationships with U.S. companies and how county leaders can help connect local businesses with businesses from Australia.

- **Mr. Andrew Jory**, Minister-Counsellor (Trade), Embassy of Australia

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FEBRUARY 12-16
WASHINGTON HILTON
WASHINGTON, D.C.



2:30 PM: Connecting Local Businesses to the Global Economy – India

Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with the Embassy of India to learn about the importance of Indian investments in the U.S. economy, what Indian businesses look for when they want to invest in an area of the U.S. or form business relationships with U.S. companies and how county leaders can help connect local businesses with businesses from India.

- **Dr. Ravi Kota**, Minister (Economic), Embassy of India

2:55 PM: Concluding Thoughts and Task Force Announcements

- **Hon. Stephanie Wright**, Council Member, Snohomish County, Wash.

3:00 PM: Meeting Concludes

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Speaker Bios



On July 26, 2018, **Mr. Craig Allen** began his tenure in Washington, D.C. as the president of the US-China Business Council (USCBC), a private, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization representing over 260 American companies doing business with China. Prior to joining USCBC, Mr. Allen had a long, distinguished career in U.S. public service. Mr. Allen began his government career in 1985 at the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA), entering as a Presidential Management Intern, steadily advancing in the ranks and moving around the world throughout his over 30-year career in foreign service. He served in various capacities under multiple agencies, including at the American Institute in Taiwan, the U.S. embassies in Beijing, Tokyo and South Africa, as well as the National Center for APEC in Seattle. After his tour in South Africa, Mr. Allen became Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia at ITA. He later became Deputy Assistant Secretary for China. Mr. Allen was sworn in as the United States ambassador to Brunei Darussalam on December 19, 2014. He served there until July 2018, when he transitioned to President of the US-China Business Council. Mr. Allen received a B.A. from the University of Michigan in Political Science and Asian Studies in 1979. He received a Master of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University in 1985.

Mr. Andrew Jory is the Minister-Counsellor (Trade) at the Australian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Prior to this position he was the Assistant Secretary, Goods and Market Access Branch, Office of Trade Negotiations in Canberra. In this role, Mr. Jory was Australia's Deputy Chief Negotiator in the EU-Australia Free Trade Agreement and ran the goods agenda. Mr. Jory was Australia's Chief Negotiator in the Peru-Australia Free Trade Agreement and Pacific Alliance Free Trade Agreement. Prior to this Mr. Jory ran Australia's goods team in Australia's Mission to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Geneva, Switzerland, where he played a key role in the WTO Decision which eliminated export subsidies in agriculture. Mr. Jory was also Australia's lead goods market access negotiator in the TPP and closed market access deals with the U.S., Mexico and Canada.



Dr. Ravi Kota heads the Economic wing of the Indian Embassy in Washington, D.C. He deals with finance, monetary and investment issues of India and the U.S. He focuses on India – U.S. economic relations and India's investment climate. Apart from handling bilateral economic and finance issues with the U.S. administration, he also deals with issues relating to the World Bank and IMF. He also looks after the U.S.-India Clean Energy and Climate Partnership 2030. Joined in Indian Administrative Service in 1993, Dr. Kota, a gold medalist in Ph.D. in Agronomy, brings with him about 28 years of national and state government leadership experience focusing on public finance, fiscal practices and macroeconomic policies. He comes to Washington from his previous posting as Joint Secretary, Fifteenth Finance Commission in the Ministry of Finance with deep knowledge of fiscal issues of each of 28 States. He worked with the Indian government extensively from the cutting edge level of State administration to the senior policy level in the federal government in varied sectors from food and agriculture, human resources, urban infrastructure to internal security.