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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3806

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Join the German-American Caucus!

Dear Colleague:

I am writing today to ask you to consider joining the newly-formed German-American Caucus.

The German-American Caucus will serve as an informal, bipartisan group of Members dedicated to maintaining and strengthening the relationship between United States and Germany by highlighting our current economic ties with Germany and drawing attention to the heritage of German-American immigrants and achievements they have made in building the United States. Additionally, the Caucus will host a number of briefings and events that would highlight German-American relationships, such as a briefing on Germany's investment in the United States and fair trade between the countries. The Caucus will also host events to educate Members on historical and cultural relationships, such as an organized tour of the German-American Heritage Museum. And the Caucus would not be complete without an Oktoberfest celebration!

As you probably know, Germany is the largest economy in the European Union (EU) and the third largest in the world. Germany is also one of the world's leading exporters; with 8.7% of their exports coming to the United States. In addition, \$54.5 billion of our products were shipped to Germany in 2008 alone. German companies have created almost one million jobs within the United States, many of them in the field of manufacturing. And the business relationship continues to grow with the recent multi-billion dollar investments by German companies in the United States.

Our shared heritage will also be highlighted by the German-American Caucus. According to the most recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau, an estimated 35 million Americans claim German ancestry, representing about 11 percent of the total U.S. population. German-American inventors, scientists, physicians, civic leaders, entrepreneurs, artists, explorers, and those in other fields have made significant contributions to the quality of life we all enjoy.

I am pleased that the German-American Business Council (GABC) and the German-American Heritage Foundation, both non-partisan, non-profit Washington-based organizations, will be partners of the German-American Caucus and will support its activities.

Please note that the German-American Caucus is a separate organization with a distinctly different mission from the well-regarded Congressional Study Group on Germany. However, together both groups can play an integral role in continuing to foster German-American relations.

I hope that you will consider joining the new German-American Caucus and join me at a celebratory event on the Hill in the coming weeks to recognize this newly-formed Caucus. If you have questions or would like to join the German-American Caucus, please contact Annie Fultz in my office at Annie.Fultz@mail.house.gov or x54315.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress

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