



SUSAN BYSIEWICZ
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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- NEWS RELEASE -

BYSIEWICZ TO LAUNCH CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE FORUM FRIDAY

SECRETARY OF THE STATE JOINS U.S. COMMERCE DEPARTMENT TO EXPAND
EXPORTS FROM CONNECTICUT BUSINESSES TO GROWING CARIBBEAN MARKET;
JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Hartford: Seeking to encourage more Connecticut businesses to enter a major growing export market, Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz will host a Caribbean Trade and Investment Summit Friday October 2, 2009 at the State Capitol in Hartford. The event will begin with a breakfast and networking session at 8:00 a.m followed by one on one business meetings with senior government officials from four Caribbean Islands. A lunchtime keynote address will be delivered by the honorable Anthony Johnson, Ambassador of the Republic of Jamaica to the United States of America.

“The Caribbean is the third largest U.S. export market in Latin America with over \$20 billion worth of U.S. products and services imported each year,” said Secretary Bysiewicz, Connecticut’s Chief Business Registrar. “We are hosting the Caribbean Trade and Investment Summit together with the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Metro Hartford Alliance, and Caribbean Trade Council in order to offer networking and matchmaking between U.S. companies and decision makers from four Caribbean governments. Even in this challenging economy, exports from Connecticut are growing at record levels and we want to make sure small businesses from our state take advantage of this dynamic, emerging market.”

Representatives from the U.S. Export Import Bank, the Minority Business Development Agency as well as the U.S. Commercial Service’s Caribbean office will be available for counseling sessions and meetings. Additionally, Senator Chris Dodd and EXIM Bank Board of Directors member Diane Farrell will host an evening reception.