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Commerce Commissioner Susan Bell to Address U.S.-Korea Investment and Trade Cooperation Forum in D.C.

(Juneau, AK) – Alaska's Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development Commissioner Susan Bell will present state initiatives to develop trade opportunities and maintain economic ties with Korea. The U.S.-Korea Investment and Trade Cooperation Forum takes place Washington, D.C., on Friday, December 7, 2012.

Bell is representing Alaska at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry annual meeting, and will highlight the state's strong relationship with the Republic of Korea and ongoing initiatives to increase trade opportunities including current discussions regarding LNG exports.

Korea has been an important trading partner with Alaska for more than four decades, and accounted for \$644 million of the state's exports in 2011, making Korea the third largest export market. Top exports to Korea include \$339.4 million in Alaska seafood, and \$296.5 million in mineral ores. Additionally, Korean Air is the third largest cargo operator at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, and an estimated 2,000 of Alaska's international visitors are from Korea.

"I look forward to representing Alaska, showcasing the administration's programs and policies, and expressing our appreciation for the hospitality shown to representatives from Alaska meeting with Korean delegates on recent visits to Asia," Bell said. A copy of Bell's remarks can be downloaded from:

<http://www.commerce.alaska.gov/pub/KoreaAKPartners.pdf>.

The mission of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) is to promote a healthy economy, strong communities, and protect consumers in Alaska. The department houses key agencies instrumental in developing and maintaining our strong ties with Korea such as the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA), the Alaska Railroad, the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI), and the Alaska Tourism Program.

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