October 6, 2010

To the Mid-Atlantic – Russia Business Council:
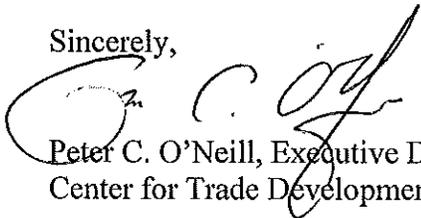
On behalf of the Office of International Business Development of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I would like to express our support for the 14th and 15th Semi-Annual Russian-American Innovation Technology Weeks (RANIT) being hosted by the Mid-Atlantic-Russia Business Council. The 14th and 15th RANIT events will be held during late June 2011 and mid-November 2011 respectively.

RANIT is the premier event in the Mid-Atlantic region dedicated to Russian-American technology cooperation, playing a viral role in fostering trade relations between Commonwealth and Russia businesses since its inception in 2003. RANIT represents the culmination of 15 years of effort and events hosted by the Council to encourage Russian-American technology cooperation. I am pleased to report that a number of Pennsylvania companies that participated in earlier RANIT events are now developing relationships with the Russian firms and organizations. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania strongly supports the ultimate goal of RANIT: To establish Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic region as a major partner for Russian technology companies and a premier center of Russian-American technology cooperation.

As has traditionally been the pivotal focal point t each Spring RANIT, the focus of the 14th RANIT week will be biotechnology and related industries applying theses biotechnology advancements. The 15th RANIT will highlight Russian capabilities from across the spectrum of technology intensive industries.

The goal of the Office of International Business Development is to foster international trade and investment in Pennsylvania. Enhancing Pennsylvania-Russia bilateral trade and investments is a priority for us. Therefore we are proud to support RANIT and we applaud the efforts of the Mid-Atlantic-Russia Business Council to foster commercial and technological relations between the Commonwealth and Russia.

Sincerely,

Peter C. O'Neill, Executive Director
Center for Trade Development