Executive Order 2007-09
Regarding The Arizona Mexico Commission
(Superseding Executive Order 2002-19)

WHEREAS, Arizona's economy has been dramatically strengthened by business, social and cultural interaction with Mexico; and

WHEREAS, a strong bilateral relationship with Mexico, and the successful implementation of strategies for regional development, are crucial to the enhancement of Arizona's global competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, as an office within the Executive Office of the Governor, the Arizona-Mexico Commission has a record of excellence in bilateral achievement and cooperation, beginning in 1959 with its creation as the Arizona-Mexico West Coast Trade Commission, and evolving into its modern day public-private form; and

WHEREAS, The Arizona-Mexico Commission is the champion for Arizona's bilateral agenda with Mexico, an authority on Arizona-Mexico bilateral affairs and an advocate for Arizona's border communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State, hereby amend the mandate, mission and duties of the Arizona-Mexico Commission as follows:

1. At the direction of the Governor, the Arizona-Mexico Commission (AMC) shall:

    a. Be governed by a board of directors who shall be appointed by, and serve without compensation at the pleasure of, the Governor.

    b. Organize its membership into industry committees led by co-chairs from the public and private sectors and approved by the board of directors.

    c. Operate as a public-private partnership organization to advance its mission to improve the economic well being and quality of life for the citizens of Arizona by promoting a strong, cooperative relationship with Mexico and Latin America through advocacy, trade, networking and information.

    d. Assist the State of Arizona with short and long-term strategic planning, develop initiatives relating to the Arizona-Mexico relationship, and advocate for Arizona's interests in key policy areas at all levels of government, in both the U.S. and Mexico.

2. With regard to border safety and security, the AMC shall:

    a. Support Arizona's advocacy for the federal government to develop coordinated national policy for comprehensive immigration reform and to enhance information and intelligence exchange throughout the U.S.-Mexico region.

b. Pioneer joint efforts to secure the Arizona-Mexico region with cross-border state and local government efforts, including implementing binational public safety initiatives that streamline law enforcement and communications systems to assist Arizona and Mexico when responding to disasters, fighting crime and preventing illegal immigration.

c. Support creation and implementation of cross-border technology initiatives to strengthen collaboration between Arizona and Mexico to improve emergency and crime response times.

3. With regard to expanding trade for Arizona, the AMC shall:

a. Collaborate with Mexico on investments in security and safety at Arizona's ports of entry in order to make Arizona's ports the most advanced and efficient along the U.S.-Mexico border.

b. Develop strategies to increase Arizona's global competitiveness by increasing efficiency at our ports of entry, creating cross-border private sector connections, and collaborating with agencies and organizations in the public and private sectors to coordinate policy for secure, lawful international trade.

4. With regard to promoting regional economic development, the AMC shall:

a. Coordinate, facilitate and manage special projects and research opportunities as they relate to Arizona's global competitiveness relative to other U.S.-Mexico border states, and develop binational investment initiatives and opportunities to strengthen our border region and stimulate the economies along the U.S.-Mexico border.

b. Assist counties and municipalities, including border communities, in facilitating sustainable economic development.

c. Support development of a global brand for Arizona, through our relationship with Mexico, to raise foreign and domestic capital for our economy and foster business innovation for the region.

d. Help organize community partnerships that will stimulate new technologies, markets and approaches to cross-border economic development that promotes smart, sustainable growth to benefit our residents.

5. With regard to enhancing quality of life for our residents, the AMC shall:

a. Commission studies and research to assess trends and develop solutions as necessary for the current and future needs of the Arizona-Mexico Region.

b. Promote intelligent community development, focusing on quality education, healthcare, safety, security, infrastructure and economic development.

c. Support implementation of the State's plan for a future that capitalizes on innovation and technology in our schools, promotes regional healthy lifestyle programs, improves our

ports of entry, and develops transportation systems to accommodate the needs of ourselves and our children.

6. With regard to culturally enriching the Arizona-Sonora region, the AMC shall:

   a. Maintain existing cultural exchanges between Arizona and Mexico.

   b. Develop and implement educational programs that honor our diversity, but focus on the uniting principle that while we are many lands, many people, many faiths, we are One Region.

   c. Expand opportunities, through partnerships with binational art and cultural organizations, for regional artists to participate in events and publicly share their work locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

   d. Continue to share and raise awareness of the artistic and cultural history of our region by promoting cross-border teaching by regional artists throughout classrooms in Arizona and Mexico.

7. AMC may make, sign and execute agreements, and accept and expend funds, in accordance with relevant state and federal law, to advance the AMC mission, support the board of directors' strategic plan, and implement binational committee action items as they support the State of Arizona.

8. AMC shall integrate, as a 501(c) (4) non-profit organization chaired by the Governor, representatives from the public, business and academic sectors, as well as non-governmental organizations, into AMC's bilateral and border initiatives.

9. AMC may take any and all lawful actions deemed appropriate or desirable to develop, promote or advance the interests of the State of Arizona as they relate, directly or indirectly, to the Arizona-Mexico Region.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 13 of February in the Year Two Thousand and Seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-First.

ATTEST:

Janice K. Brewer

SECRETARY OF STATE