



For Immediate Release

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U.S. Chinese Ambassador Honors Midwest-China Hub Commission

ST. LOUIS, MO, December 9, 2009—Chinese Ambassador to the United States Zhou Wenzhong has invited the Midwest-China Hub Commission to attend a special dinner December 10 at the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C. United States Sens. Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill along with Governor Jay Nixon also will attend the dinner. Other guests include Congressmen Todd Akin, Russ Carnahan, Lacy Clay, and Blaine Leutkemeyer, St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann and area labor and business leaders.

Ambassador Zhou is honoring the Midwest-China Hub Commission to demonstrate China's continued commitment to the development of a St. Louis commercial air cargo hub.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for us to continue to cement our ties with China. I am especially thankful for Sens. Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill and Governor Nixon's strong support in this important economic development effort for our region,” said St. Louis County Executive Charlie A. Dooley.

For nearly a year, the Midwest-China Hub Commission has been actively working with government leaders and the Chinese to generate interest and ultimately create a Midwest-China air cargo hub. Highlights include: Ambassador Zhou's multiple visits to St. Louis in 2008 and 2009 to discuss the project; Commission delegation traveling to Beijing in 2008 and 2009 to strengthen relationships with the Chinese; and separate visits to St. Louis from Minister Li Zhaoxing in 2008 and Vice Premier Wang Qishan in 2008.

“Our relationship with Chinese officials is continually getting stronger and stronger, and we are making significant strides toward the formation of a new Midwestern trade route,” said Chairman of the Midwest-China Hub Commission Mike Jones. “The invitation by Ambassador Zhou brings us another step closer to reaching our goals.”

While in Washington, D.C., the Midwest-China Hub Commission also will attend various meetings including a briefing from the U.S. Department of Commerce on the administration's views on trade with China.

About the Midwest-China Hub Commission

Established in 2008, the Midwest-China Hub Commission is a public/private entity and comprised of state and local government and business leaders working in partnership with China to coordinate efforts to make St. Louis an air cargo hub for China's Midwest trade.

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