

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5437

To provide for certain actions by the International Trade Administration in order to increase exports by small- and medium-sized enterprises, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 16, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself and Mr. RUTHERFORD) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide for certain actions by the International Trade Administration in order to increase exports by small- and medium-sized enterprises, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Boosting America’s
5 Exports Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **COMMERCIAL SERVICE.**—The term “Com-
9 mercial Service” means the United States and For-

1 eign Commercial Service of the Department of Com-
2 merce.

3 (2) DIRECTOR GENERAL.—The term “Director
4 General” means the Assistant Secretary for Global
5 Markets and Director General of the United States
6 and Foreign Commercial Service.

7 (3) SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTER-
8 PRISES.—The term “small- and medium-sized enter-
9 prises” or “SMEs” means firms with less than 500
10 employees.

11 (4) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under
12 Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce
13 for International Trade.

14 (5) UNITED STATES EXPORT ASSISTANCE CEN-
15 TER.—The term “United States Export Assistance
16 Center” or “USEAC” means a United States Ex-
17 port Assistance Center established by the Commer-
18 cial Service to provide assistance to United States
19 firms in exporting their goods and services.

20 **SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT OF UNITED STATES EXPORT ASSIST-**
21 **ANCE CENTERS.**

22 (a) ASSESSMENT.—The Under Secretary shall con-
23 duct an assessment of the location of and services provided
24 by United States Export Assistance Centers in relation to
25 the location of small- and medium-sized enterprises that

1 are exporters or potential exporters of products or serv-
2 ices.

3 (b) REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
6 Under Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
7 on the assessment conducted under subsection (a).

8 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report
9 required under this subsection shall identify—

10 (A) those locations of USEACs that are
11 serving a comparatively high number of SMEs;
12 and

13 (B) other locations where USEACs should
14 be established.

15 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Under Secretary shall
16 implement the changes recommended in the report sub-
17 mitted to Congress under subsection (b) not later than
18 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act. The
19 Under Secretary may establish up to 30 new USEACs on
20 the basis of the report.

21 **SEC. 4. ACTIVITIES OF COMMERCIAL SERVICE.**

22 (a) INCREASED ACTIVITIES.—The Under Secretary
23 shall take the necessary steps, through actions by the
24 Commercial Service, to increase the exports, by volume
25 and types of products and services, by small- and medium-

1 sized enterprises. In order to achieve that goal, the Direc-
2 tor General shall set goals and measure exports by SMEs
3 in each fiscal year, in particular exports by SMEs that
4 had not exported previously, including measuring—

5 (1) the total volume of exports, by product and
6 type of services, including as compared to the vol-
7 ume of such exports in the preceding fiscal year;

8 (2) the number of non-exporting SMEs con-
9 tacted through recruitment efforts of the Commer-
10 cial Service;

11 (3) the number of new SMEs exporting in the
12 fiscal year; and

13 (4) customer service, such as response times
14 and customer satisfaction, to SMEs that contact
15 United States Export Assistance Centers, in par-
16 ticular non-exporting SMEs.

17 (b) PERSONNEL FOR USEACs.—The Under Sec-
18 retary shall ensure that the following is carried out upon
19 the implementation of the report submitted under section
20 3:

21 (1) FUNCTIONS OF PERSONNEL.—Personnel at
22 each USEAC shall identify and conduct outreach to
23 potential exporters that are SMEs, attend relevant
24 business conferences and trade shows to advertise
25 the availability of the resources of the USEAC to

1 SMEs, and perform other tasks designed to help
2 non-exporting SMEs become exporters.

3 (2) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—The Under Sec-
4 retary shall, in the case of USEACs that are exist-
5 ing USEACs and not new USEACs established on
6 the basis of the report, increase the personnel at
7 those USEACs (by an average of not more than 5
8 for each USEAC) to the extent necessary to enhance
9 the ability of the USEACs, through outreach and
10 provision of services to SMEs, to increase exports by
11 SMEs, in particular non-exporting SMEs.

12 (3) TRADE SPECIALISTS.—The Director Gen-
13 eral shall ensure that specialists in an increased
14 number of areas are on the staff of USEACs in
15 order to serve an increased number of SMEs.

16 (4) COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES.—
17 The Director General shall ensure that staff at each
18 USEAC is assigned to conduct outreach to and col-
19 laborate with entities of the States and other non-
20 Federal entities with respect to export promotion ac-
21 tivities designed to increase exports by SMEs.

22 (5) ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL.—The Direc-
23 tor General shall ensure that USEACs have per-
24 sonnel dedicated to administrative duties as needed

1 in order to enable other personnel to work more on
2 client-oriented tasks.

3 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

4 The Under Secretary shall submit to Congress an an-
5 nual report on the implementation of this Act, including
6 the actions of the Director General under section 4.

○