

Sent by:
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Mr. Hannes Germann
President aus dem Staenderat
Aussenpolitische Kommission (APK)
Parlamentsdienste
Sekretariat APK
3003 Bern
Switzerland

Dear Mr. President,

Chicago, Oct. 30th, 2013


Thank you for your efforts to support the motion to prevent the closure of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago. We also appreciate the efforts of your colleagues in Parliament who supported the motion.

Obviously, we are very disappointed with the Parliament's final decision, which essentially leaves Switzerland with no official presence on the ground in the United States' third largest city and most important industrial region. Of course, we now have to find ways to mitigate the resulting damage and protect vital Swiss interests in the region. This U.S. Midwest region is far too important to Swiss industry for the Swiss Government to abandon.

As the not-for-profit representing the Swiss-American business relationship in the U.S. Midwest region, the SABC will continue its efforts to be the voice of Swiss business, assisting Swiss companies already here, as well as those interested in entering the area. We will also do our best to promote Switzerland as the superb place for U.S. companies to do business.

We encourage all relevant entities in Switzerland and in the U.S., public and private, to work with us so we can fill the vacuum caused by the closure of the Swiss Consulate and the Swiss Business Hub.

I thank you again for your advocacy and understanding,


David Kouidri
Executive Director

cc:
State Secretary Yves Rossier, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Confederation of Switzerland
Ambassador Manuel Sager, Embassy of Switzerland, Washington DC
Consul General Martin Bienz, Consulate General of Switzerland Chicago