ELENI KOUNALAKIS
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

January 12, 2023

Mr. Al Washington
Executive Director
Africa-USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Dear Mr. Washington:

I am delighted to learn that the Africa-USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry will host its 11th Pan African Global Trade and Investment Conference in Sacramento on April 26-30, 2023.

As Governor Gavin Newsom's Representative for International Affairs and Trade Development it is my hope that this annual gathering, which has been postponed for the past three years due to the global pandemic, will result in increased trade and commerce between California and the countries of Africa. To reiterate what I said at the 2019 Conference, I strongly urge all California companies, large, small, and medium-sized alike, to explore trade and investment opportunities in Africa, which is home to more than 1.2 billion people, is experiencing the growth of a middle class and rising income levels, and is a region poised to become one of the largest free-trade areas in the world. Likewise, I urge all African companies to explore business opportunities in our Golden State, and I enthusiastically encourage them to consider sending representatives to your conference.

Congratulations and best wishes to you and to the Africa-USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the return of your celebrated Trade and Investment Conference to California.

Best regards,

Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis (ret.)
Lieutenant Governor

STATE CAPITOL, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • PHONE (916) 445-8994
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