



TOURISM & HOSPITALITY POLICY AGENDA

The Brazil-U.S. Business Council (BUSBC) is the premier business advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening the economic and commercial relationship between the two countries. BUSBC represents more than 100 of the top U.S. companies with businesses and investments in Brazil. We support industry priorities as they relate to addressing key areas impacting U.S. private sector investment in Brazil.

The following list includes the priority areas for member companies in the tourism and hospitality industry:



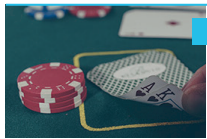
Visa-Free Environment

The Brazil-U.S. Visa Free Coalition was created to increase economic and cultural gains from tourism and business travel, and to strengthen the Brazil-U.S. bilateral relationship. The coalition is composed of participating BUSBC members and stakeholder associations in the two countries. The short-term goal is Brazil's inclusion in the U.S. Global Entry program, and the long-term goal is to include Brazil in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (VWP), with reciprocal treatment by the Brazilian government.



Open-Skies (Air Transport Agreement)

Support congressional passage of policies to alleviate Brazil's barriers to foreign airlines. Of the 100+ nations that have signed open skies agreements with the U.S., Brazil is one of only a handful that has not put it into effect. Approval of the agreement would significantly liberalize U.S.-Brazil air services for airlines, travelers and shippers, and the U.S. and Brazilian economies would benefit from competitive pricing and more convenient service.



Regulatory Framework for Casinos in Brazil

Promote the approval of bills authorizing gambling in Brazil with provisions to encourage the gaming industry to notify the public of responsible gaming resources, while simultaneously incorporating responsible gaming into business operations.



Legalized Outsourcing Activities and Specialized Services Contracts

Support bills that make outsourcing viable in Brazil so entrepreneurs can choose which activities to outsource based on their business models and protect outsourced employees' rights under the law.



Flexible Workday

Support congressional passage of the pending bill to establish a flexible workday. Currently, Brazil's labor laws make it very difficult to hire part-time employees, which results in lost opportunities to expand employment and hampers the sector's ability to provide maximized customer service during peak demand.



Infrastructure

Promote a policy agenda designed for foreign investors, including the U.S. as a strategic partner under the U.S.-Brazil Memorandum of Cooperation for infrastructure development. We support Brazil's Investment Partnership Program to strengthen cooperation between state and private sectors through agreements on public infrastructure projects and privatization. Key infrastructure issues include: project prioritization bidding process; promotion of transparent bidding processes; and environmental licensing process simplification.



Tax Simplification

Support Brazilian and U.S. governments pursuit of their 2007 presidential commitment toward an agreement addressing the issue of double taxation.