

DRAFT

**Resolution Regarding Survival Issues
Of the U.S. Commercial Service**

**2006 National District Export Council Conference
New Orleans, Louisiana
November 1, 2006**

Whereas, the Commercial Service of the International Trade Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce has been mandated under OMB directive A-25 to institute “full cost recovery” on its services to U.S. exporters, which would result in an instantaneous increases of up to 300-400 percent, and though Congress has exempted the Commercial Service for the current Fiscal Year;

And, whereas the avowed mission of the Commercial Service is to assist small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and that this “full cost recovery” increase would decimate the ranks of SMEs seeking to export;

And, whereas the Capital Security Cost Sharing (CSCSP) provisions for State Department-imposed charges on the Commercial Service offices overseas would result in massive personnel reductions and thus greatly diminish the services available to SME’s;

And, because these actions in concert threaten the actual survival of the Commercial Service, and thus its assistance to SME exports with the consequent loss of jobs;

Now therefore, it is the consensus of the 2006 National District Export Council Conference:

To urge the House/Senate Conference Committee to permanently exempt the Commercial Service from the OMB directive A-25 that mandates full cost recovery;

To eliminate the \$8,000,000 withheld from the International Trade Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce that assumes that this sum will be required in fees charged for services;

To maintain an affordable fee structure for SME’s using the Commercial Service programs;

To allocate additional funds to the Commercial Service to pay the costs of the new security requirements mandated by the State Department’s CSCSP.