

CORNERSTONE
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

U.S.-Cuba Relations

Rapprochement or Resistance

June 2, 2016

Rice Market & Technology Convention
Alice J. Gomez

Capabilities & Practice Areas

AGRICULTURE



BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS



CULTURE, MUSEUMS & TOURISM



DEFENSE



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



EDUCATION



ENERGY



ENVIRONMENTAL



HEALTH



HOMELAND SECURITY



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



LOCAL GOVERNMENT



SPACE & SCIENCE



TAX POLICY & FINANCIAL SERVICES



TECHNOLOGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS



TRANSPORTATION



Services

Experience - Expertise - Relationships - Resources

- Intelligence Gathering/Issue Monitoring
 - Policy & Political Analysis
 - Business to Government
 - Government to Business
 - Business to Business
 - Relationship Building (Access)
 - Legislative & Regulatory Strategies & Implementations
 - Proactive
 - Reactive
 - Legislative Drafting
 - Economic Development
 - Federal Marketing/Procurement
 - Message Development/Branding
 - Coalition Building/Ally Development
 - Campaign Management
 - Political Consulting—Strategy and Implementation
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Presentation Overview

Part 1: Relaxing Regulatory Restrictions

Part 2: 114th U.S. Congress: Recent Developments and Outlook



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Part 1

Relaxing Regulatory Restrictions

The Embargo on Trade with Cuba

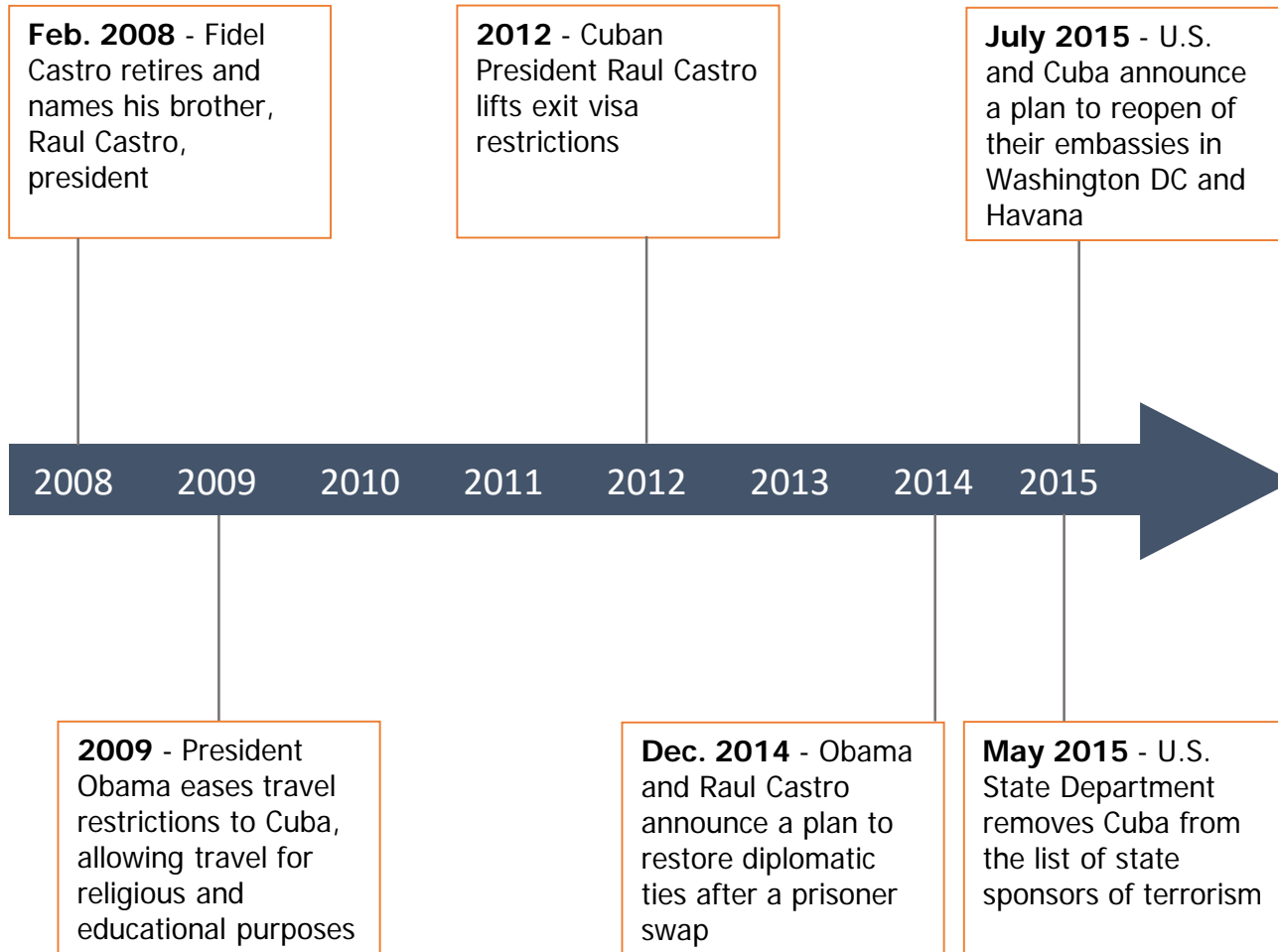


Part 2

U.S. Government Actions on International Trade

U.S. and Cuba Plan to Re-Establish Embassies

Timeline of U.S. Diplomatic Relations with Cuba Under the Obama Administration





President Obama Makes Historic Visit to Cuba With Family



Visit Length: Sunday March 20th – Tuesday March 22nd

President Obama brought along his wife, Michelle, and both of his daughters, Sasha and Malia for the historic visit to Cuba. **This is the first visit to the country by a sitting US president in 88 years**; Calvin Coolidge was the last president to visit the island country in 1928.



Entrepreneurship Summit: Monday March 21st, 3:45pm

A key part of the president's plan in normalizing US-Cuba relations is reinvigorating the commercial market between the two nations. The president invited representatives from several companies including PayPal, Airbnb and Marriott hotels to participate in a conference on promoting international business between both countries.



Meeting with Cuban dissidents and civil society leaders: Tuesday March 22nd, Morning

The White House requested that the president be allowed some time to meet privately with Cuban dissidents. This marks a slow but lasting reform within the Cuban government. Since 2010, the government has relaxed limits on cellphones, Internet and public conversations with dissenting opinions.



Baseball - Cuban National Team v. Tampa Bay Rays: Tuesday March 22nd, 2pm

The president's schedule was filled with various cultural and tourist activities highlighted by a baseball game in Havana's Estadio Latinoamericano. The president and his family also planned some sightseeing in Old Havana.

US-Cuba Relations Still Rocky Despite Progress

While the president's visit to Cuba marks warming relations between the two countries, there is still much room for progress as diplomacy is still somewhat tense. President Castro did not greet President Obama during his arrival on the tarmac. Castro's government also still enforces restrictive policies on media, public speech and assembly, policies which still cause concerns over human rights violations in Washington

Sources: Julie Pace and Michael Weissenstein, "Obama Arrives in Cuba For What He Calls a 'Historic Visit'" Associated Press, March 21, 2016. Reena Flores, "President Obama welcome in Cuba on Historic Visit," CBS News, March 20, 2016; Gregory Korte, "Obama's Schedule for Historic Trip to Havana, Cuba," USA Today, March 21, 2016; Images by N.K. Narasimhan and Edward Boatman, made available through The Noun Project.



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Part 3

114th U.S. Congress: Agricultural Review



Cuba Working Group Steering Committee



Kathy Castor (D-FL)



Tom Emmer (R-MN)



Jim McGovern (D-MA)



Kevin Cramer (R-ND)



Rosa Delauro (D-CT)



Rick Crawford (R-AR)



Reid Ribble (R-WI)



Barbara Lee (D-CA)



Ted Poe (R-TX)



Nydia Velázquez (D-NY)



Mark Sanford (R-SC)



Sam Farr (D-CA)



Legislation Introduced

Cuba Bills

- H.R.3687 - Cuba Agricultural Exports Act (Crawford-Poe; Heitkamp)
- H.R.3238 - Cuba Trade Act of 2015 (Emmer; Moran)
- S.491 - Freedom to Export to Cuba Act of 2015 (Klobuchar)
- S.299/H.R.664 - Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2015 (Sanford; Flake)



Legislative Forecast

Remaining Issues

- Affordable Care Act
- Appropriations
- Chemical Reform
- Conflict in Iraq and Syria
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Cybersecurity
- Defense Appropriations
- Energy and Environment
- International Trade
- Mental Health
- Opioid Abuse and Heroin Epidemic
- Puerto Rico Bailout
- Zika Funding



The Legislative Agenda for 2016

Prospective Items on Legislative Agenda in 114th Congress

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Approps: President's FY16 Budget Request Iraq & Syria: Partial ceasefire went into effect		Approps: Senate plans to consider individual appropriations bills, pending cooperation with budget committee Energy & Environment: President expected to sign Paris Climate Treaty	Opioids: House declared "Opioid Week" Approps: House to start considering spending bills					Beginning of FY17	Cuba bill?	

Possible Actions, Timing Unknown

- Affordable Care Act:** SCOTUS decision on *Zubik v. Burwell*
- Cybersecurity:** Senate Intelligence Committee to release draft encryption legislation
- Energy:** Congress hopes to bring comprehensive energy bill to president's desk by July
- International Trade:** Congressional vote on TPP
- Mental Health Reform:** Congressional consideration of Mental Health Reform Act of 2015
- Puerto Rico Debt:** SCOTUS decision on Puerto Rico's debt law

Sources: National Journal Research, 2016; Noun Project, Phil Laver.

2016 Congressional Calendar

■ House in session
 ■ Senate in session
 ■ Both chambers in session
 House Votes Suspended due to Snowstorm

January

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31						

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December

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