

**From:** [Secretary John Bryson](#)  
**To:** [Broadcast, DOC](#)  
**Cc:** [BCAST-ALLDC](#)  
**Subject:** Department of Commerce's Labor Management Forum  
**Date:** Friday, May 11, 2012 10:06:42 AM

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Dear Commerce Team,

This spring marks the two-year anniversary of the Department of Commerce's Labor Management Forum.

The Forum was established in response to President Obama's call for managers, employees, and employees' union representatives to collaborate to improve government productivity and effectiveness. The Forum is proving to be a valuable resource for the Department, showing that a collaborative spirit can enhance both employee satisfaction and department-wide performance.

Already, Forum members have made a number of significant accomplishments. For example, they have:

- collaborated on a pilot project that uses new contract strategies to drive down travel costs;
- increased participation in the 2011 Employee Viewpoint Survey to ensure workplace issues are identified and addressed;
- disseminated information on child care and elder care resources to help families in need;
- created a telework team to promote more telework opportunities throughout the Commerce Department, modeling on our successful program at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The Forum has also become an important vehicle for management and labor to talk through challenging issues during difficult budget times.

For more about the work of the Department's Labor Management Forum or to submit your ideas and comments, please visit the website at <http://hr.commerce.gov/Employees/LaborManagementForum>.

I am grateful to everyone who has been involved in the Forum over the past two years. Keep up the good work!