

# *U.S. Governor of Texas Concludes Visit, Comes Out Against U.S. Blockade of Cuba*

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Havana, December 3 (RHC)-- Governor of the U.S. State of Texas, Greg Abbott, has come out against Washington's over 50 year-long blockade policy towards Cuba. The Republican governor concluded on Wednesday a three-day working visit to Cuba, aimed at exploring business opportunities.

Shortly before wrapping up his visit, governor Abbott met with Cuban Vice President Ricardo Cabrisas, with whom he discussed the sometimes unsurmountable obstacles to bilateral trade exchanges placed by the U.S. economic siege.

Also on Wednesday, Abbott met with Cuban Minister for Foreign Trade and Investment Rodrigo Malmierca, who briefed the distinguished U.S. visitor and his delegation on the ongoing process to update the Cuban economic model and the new Cuban foreign investment law.

During the exchange, Abbott expressed a deep interest of his State in having bilateral trade exchanges with Cuba in a post-blockade era.

In a press release posted on the official website of the Texas Governor's Office, Abbott said he wants "Texas poised to pounce if and when the blockade is lifted. But, in the meantime, Texas is ready and willing to find ways to develop an economic relationship with Cuba within the limits of current law, in a way that will be beneficial to Texas, to the United States and to Cuba."

Abbott was the third U.S. governor to visit Cuba since the historic announcement by Washington and Havana on December 17th, 2014, that the two governments would re-establish diplomatic relations.

Governor of the U.S. State of New York Andrew Cuomo visited Cuba in April 2015, and his counterpart from Arkansas, Asa Hutchinson, visited here September last. Both their aim was similar to Abbott's, explore business and trade exchanges under today's new circumstances and in a post-blockade era.

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