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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov)/[Michawn Rich](mailto:michawn_rich@heller.senate.gov) | | July 1, 2015 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller Statement on US and Cuba Announcing Embassy Openings**  **(Washington, DC)**– Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller issued the following statement after the United States and Cuban governments announced they will officially re-establish diplomatic relations by opening foreign embassies in each country’s capital:  “December 17, 2014, was a historic day for the United States-Cuba relationship. Today’s announcement is equally as important. With the opening of these embassies, the United States and Cuba continue to build a path that will one day open up travel and lead to numerous opportunities mutually beneficial to the people of both countries.  “Re-establishing diplomatic relations is a step in the right direction for both of our nations. But many concerns remain surrounding basic freedoms and human rights issues in Cuba. These fundamental issues must be addressed by its government before our two nations can establish the bilateral relationship they are capable of achieving,” said **Senator Heller.**  Senator Heller visited Cuba this past week as a member of an official, bipartisan, Senate delegation with his colleagues Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Ben Cardin (D-MD).  ###  [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_fb.png](http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Senator-Dean-Heller/325751330177) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_tw.png](http://twitter.com/SenDeanHeller) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_yt.png](http://www.youtube.com/user/SenDeanHeller) |