

NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL, INC.

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October 17, 2011

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman
Homeland Security and Governmental
Affairs Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Minority Member
Homeland Security and Governmental
Affairs Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins:

On behalf of the National Foreign Trade Council, I write today in support of S.1487, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Act of 2011, which has been referred to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

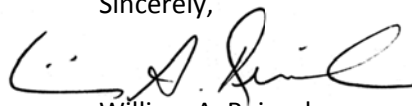
This legislation will enable growth-oriented U.S. companies to realize the same benefits offered to their competitors within the 21 member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies. By passing this bill, Congress would enable Customs and Border Protection (CBP), a part of the Department of Homeland Security, to issue travel cards to U.S. business people so that they can quickly move through the customs lines in the APEC region. This fee-funded program would complement existing trusted-traveler programs already run by CBP, minimizing any start-up costs.

NFTC is a broad-based trade association which advocates for open trade and international engagement on behalf of global companies. Our board members include Boeing, Chevron, General Electric, Microsoft, Proctor & Gamble and United Technologies. Our member companies include a variety of individuals who travel frequently. You can understand the desire that U.S. company representatives would have to move more efficiently through airports abroad. By spending less time in lines at airports abroad, U.S. card holders would be able to spend more time meeting with potential customers, vendors, and partners.

Today, business travelers from the following APEC economies currently participate in the program: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, China, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, and Vietnam. Russia, the U.S. and Canada are transitional members - which means that those countries allow foreign business leaders holding the cards to move quickly through their airports, but they do NOT allow their own business leaders to join the ABTC program and use the cards overseas. By not participating in the ABTC program, U.S. business travelers are at a disadvantage in comparison to their foreign counterparts that enjoy the program's full benefits.

I urge you to quickly move this important piece of legislation through the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and onto the floor of the Senate.

Sincerely,



William A. Reinsch
President