



September 23, 2010

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter T. King
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Kerry and Thompson and Ranking Members Lugar and King:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of every size, sector, and region, and the American Chambers of Commerce in the Asia Pacific (APCAC), the umbrella organization comprised of 25 American Chambers of Commerce across the Asia-Pacific region, urge you to support H.R. 3192 to implement the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Travel Card Act (ABTC).

The United States is the only member of APEC that has not fully adopted the ABTC. As such, American citizens traveling on behalf of U.S. companies overseas are not guaranteed the benefits of fast and efficient travel.

The ABTC allows business travelers pre-cleared, facilitated short-term entry to participating member economies. The ABTC removes the need to individually apply for visas or entry permits, saving valuable time, and allows multiple entries into participating economies during the three years the card is valid. Card holders would also benefit from faster immigration processing on arrival.

The Chamber and APCAC believe that the ABTC would greatly contribute to making trade with the Asia-Pacific region easier and more efficient for American companies and urge you to report H.R. 3192 out of your respective Committees swiftly for consideration by the full House and Senate.

Sincerely,

U.S. Chamber of Commerce
American Chambers of Commerce in the Asia Pacific