



**PRESS RELEASE
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AmCham Singapore Applauds Bi-Partisan Support for U.S. Business in Asia

Legislation to Make Permanent the APEC Business Travel Card for U.S. Citizens Passes Both Houses of Congress

November, 3, 2017, Singapore – The American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore (AmCham Singapore) applauds the passing of bipartisan legislation which makes permanent the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Travel Card Program. The bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate last month and has now been signed into law by President Trump, grants Americans and citizens from APEC nations access to fast-track processing lanes at customs in airports across the U.S. and participating APEC nations.

“The APEC Business Travel Card allows American business persons to most effectively do their jobs in Asia Pacific – which creates jobs and investment in the United States,” said Dwight Hutchins, Chairman of AmCham Singapore. “Singapore serves as the headquarters for U.S. business operating in the region. Therefore, it is no surprise that Singapore is home to the highest number of U.S. citizens who are ABTC [APEC Business Travel Card] holders outside the United States. We truly appreciate passage of this legislation.”

“Our members mobilized and advocated tirelessly for this bill and the efforts led by AmCham Governor Steve Okun clearly paid off,” said AmCham Executive Director Ann Yom Steel. “In business, time is money and the ABTC allows card holders to save an average of 43 minutes per trip giving corporate representatives more time to explore new trade and investment expansion opportunities that will lead to creating jobs for Americans.”

2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the creation of the business travel card initiative by APEC. In 2011, at the APEC summit in Honolulu, President Obama signed the original bill authorizing the U.S. Government to issue ABTCs to U.S. citizens. The first cards were issued in 2014.

Background

The American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore is the leading international business association in Singapore, with over 5,000 members representing more than 700 companies. American companies' direct investment in Singapore exceeds an estimated US\$258 billion.

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