

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 311

Encouraging the United States Trade Representative to pursue a free trade agreement between the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 13, 2009

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. BOND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance

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## RESOLUTION

Encouraging the United States Trade Representative to pursue a free trade agreement between the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Whereas the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established in 1967, with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand being original members;

Whereas ASEAN membership has now expanded and includes 10 countries;

Whereas the United States supports the centrality of ASEAN within East Asia;

Whereas the United States was the first country to appoint an Ambassador to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;

Whereas ASEAN significantly contributes to regional stability in East Asia;

Whereas approximately 40,000 students from ASEAN are studying in the United States and an increasing number of Americans are studying in ASEAN countries;

Whereas ASEAN partners with the United States Government to combat global terror;

Whereas the United States acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in 2009;

Whereas ASEAN constitutes the fourth largest market for United States exports;

Whereas ASEAN has a population of approximately 560,000,000 persons;

Whereas two-way, United States-ASEAN trade totals approximately \$180,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas the nations of ASEAN are increasingly economically integrated;

Whereas ASEAN has entered into free trade agreements with India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand; and

Whereas the United States and ASEAN signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement over three years ago:  
Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2               (1) the United States Trade Representative, in

3       consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies

4       and interested stakeholders, should establish a strat-

1       egy for initiating negotiations for a free trade agree-  
2       ment between the United States and ASEAN; and  
3       (2) at the time of free trade agreement negotia-  
4       tions, any pending bilateral issues between the  
5       United States and Burma, including economic sanc-  
6       tions, investment prohibition, travel restrictions or  
7       otherwise, should not deter the United States from  
8       engaging with other ASEAN nations regarding a po-  
9       tential free trade agreement, nor should the United  
10      States encourage trade with Burma, absent signifi-  
11      cant reforms within that country.

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