



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 23, 2017

## **NCAPEC Applauds Passage of APEC Business Travel Card Legislation**

*Seattle, WA* – The National Center for APEC (NCAPEC) on Monday welcomed passage of the *Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Travel Cards Act of 2017* by the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill was passed by the Senate in September ([S. 504/H.R. 2805](#)). The bill renews and makes permanent the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) program, which provides business travelers secure, fast, and efficient travel entry procedures in participating APEC economies.

On the announcement, NCAPEC President Monica Hardy Whaley said, “NCAPEC applauds the House and Senate’s work to make the APEC Business Travel Card a permanent, reliable, and efficient resource for business travelers across the Asia-Pacific. We appreciate Rep. Rice and Sen. Hirono’s leadership on renewing U.S. engagement in the ABTC program and recognize the strong support for renewing this program in both chambers.

The APEC Business Travel Card program prioritizes American business and promotes trade and investment activities that are critical to a strong and growing U.S. economy. These cards give business people more time to focus on what matters most: exploring trade and investment opportunities and winning new deals with global partners. Finally, this program is an important example of how the U.S. private sector benefits from the United States’ active engagement in APEC. We look forward to promoting this program among business executives in the years to come.”

The United States began issuing ABTCs in 2014; since that time, more than 25,000 U.S. citizens have received cards. The ABTCs provide U.S. business people quicker access through participating airports, thereby facilitating business travel and engagement in economies across the Asia-Pacific and Western Hemisphere.

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### **About the National Center for APEC**

Established in Seattle, Washington in 1994, the National Center for APEC (NCAPEC) is the only U.S. business association focused exclusively on facilitating private sector engagement in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) organization. Led by a board of 50 U.S. companies with a strong interest

in the growth and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific, NCAPEC works to advance U.S. private sector policy priorities in APEC's discussions on trade and economic issues. NCAPEC also serves as the Secretariat to the U.S. members of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the official mechanism for private sector input in APEC.

For more information about NCAPEC, please visit <http://www.ncapec.org>.