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## The National Center for APEC Applauds Introduction of Russia PNTR Legislation in the U.S. Senate

The National Center for APEC today applauded the introduction of U.S. Senate legislation to establish permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) with Russia upon its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

"We are encouraged by the leadership that Senators Max Baucus (D-MT), John Thune (R-SD), John Kerry (D-MA) and John McCain (R-AZ) have shown in introducing this legislation. Establishing PNTR with Russia will help ensure that U.S. businesses benefit fully from Russia's pending WTO accession, and this effort is particularly timely given Russia's hosting of APEC this year." said Monica Whaley, National Center for APEC President.

"Russia has prioritized the advancement of APEC's trade and investment liberalization agenda, including facilitating business operations, intensifying regional economic integration, and strengthening supply chains. This legislation will help reduce or eliminate many of the tariffs that U.S. corporations currently face when operating in Russia, and represents a significant step towards creating a seamless commercial environment in the Asia-Pacific."

The National Center for APEC urges the Administration and Congressional leadership to continue to work together to ensure the expeditious passage of Russia PNTR. The National Center for APEC is committed to working constructively with all stakeholders towards successful passage of this legislation.

### About the National Center for APEC

The National Center for APEC is dedicated to the proposition that business must have a voice in the development of policies that impact the economies of the Asia-Pacific region. The Center is the only U.S. business association focused exclusively on facilitating American private sector input into Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) process and provides input to U.S. government agencies on the wide range of issues addressed under APEC's auspices. As the Secretariat for the three U.S. representatives to the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), and through its network of partnerships with business organizations in other APEC economies, the National Center advances the business community's interests with regard to trade, economics, regulatory issues, and other matters in the Asia-Pacific region.