

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 2697

To establish the position of the United States Ambassador for ASEAN.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2, 2006

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. OBAMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To establish the position of the United States Ambassador  
for ASEAN.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3        **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4        This Act may be cited as the “United States Amba-  
5        sador for ASEAN Act”.

6        **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        Congress makes the following findings:

8                (1) The Association of Southeast Asian Nations  
9                (referred to in this Act as “ASEAN”) was estab-  
10                lished in 1967, with an initial membership of Indo-

1       nesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and  
2       Thailand.

3               (2) ASEAN is committed to accelerating eco-  
4       nomic growth, social progress, cultural development  
5       and regional peace and stability.

6               (3) The membership of ASEAN has expanded  
7       to 10 countries since its establishment in 1967.

8               (4) The United States seeks to maintain and  
9       further develop a constructive and cordial relation-  
10      ship with ASEAN.

11              (5) The countries comprising ASEAN—

12                      (A) constitute the 3rd largest export mar-  
13      ket for United States products;

14                      (B) have received nearly \$90,000,000,000  
15      in direct investment from United States  
16      sources; and

17                      (C) are developing an integrated free trade  
18      area.

19              (6) Trade between the United States and the  
20      countries comprising ASEAN totals approximately  
21      \$130,000,000,000.

22              (7) ASEAN continues to contribute to regional  
23      stability in East Asia and has partnered with the  
24      United States to combat global terror.

1           (8) In 2006, approximately 38,000 students  
2           from the countries comprising ASEAN were study-  
3           ing in the United States.

4           (9) The countries comprising ASEAN share a  
5           common concern with the United States regarding—

6                   (A) the spread of avian influenza and other  
7                   diseases; and

8                   (B) environmental issues, such as the pres-  
9                   ervation of biodiversity and the prevention of il-  
10                  legal logging.

11          (10) It is in the long-term interest of the  
12          United States to maintain and expand a relationship  
13          with ASEAN.

14          (11) The United States does not have an Am-  
15          bassador to ASEAN, which limits the ability of the  
16          United States and ASEAN to respond quickly and  
17          appropriately to events of mutual interest.

18 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR FOR ASEAN.**

19          (a) APPOINTMENT.—There is established in the De-  
20          partment of State the position of United States Amba-  
21          sador for ASEAN, who shall be appointed by the Presi-  
22          dent, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

23          (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
24          gress that a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East

- 1 Asia and the Pacific should be designated as the Amba-
- 2 sador for ASEAN.

