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1ST SESSION

H. RES. 311

Recognizing that for 50 years the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has worked toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2017

Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mrs. WAGNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Recognizing that for 50 years the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has worked toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia.

Whereas the United States and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its ten members—Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam—have worked together to advance our shared goals for 40 years, having established dialogue relations on September 10, 1977, with the issuing of the 1977 Joint Communique of the First ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue, and the United States acceding to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference Session with the United States in Thailand on July 22, 2009;

Whereas the United States was the first non-ASEAN country to appoint an ambassador to ASEAN on April 29, 2008, and the first dialogue partner to establish a permanent mission to ASEAN in 2010;

Whereas the United States has supported efforts to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat and expand its role in providing greater coordination among, and enhancing the effectiveness of, regional institutions;

Whereas, working together, the Governments and people of the United States and ASEAN can help realize their common vision of a peaceful, prosperous, rules-based Asia-Pacific region that offers security, opportunity, and dignity to all of its citizens;

Whereas ASEAN's ten members, taken collectively, are the seventh-largest economy in the world, with an annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$2.4 trillion, and represent the United States fourth-largest export market with total two-way trade in goods and services reaching \$254 billion and accounting for more than 500,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas ASEAN's ten members represent a diverse group of nations and dynamic economies with an expanding workforce, a growing middle class, and a diverse set of skills, cultures, and resources;

Whereas ASEAN is home to critical global sea lanes located at the center of the world's strongest economic growth area, with \$5.3 trillion of global trade and more than half of total shipped tonnage transiting through ASEAN's waters each year;

Whereas ASEAN, taken collectively, is the third-fastest growing economy in Asia after China and India, expanding by

30 percent since 2007 and exceeding the global growth average for the past ten years;

Whereas the ASEAN Economic Community aims to create one of the largest single market economies in the world, facilitating the free movement of goods, services, and professionals and engendering a sense of economic community among its member states;

Whereas the United States is the largest investor in Southeast Asia, with total foreign direct investment stock of nearly \$226 billion in 2014, creating millions of jobs in the United States and in ASEAN member states, while investment in the United States from Southeast Asia has increased more than any other region's investment in the past decade;

Whereas the United States has helped ASEAN create a Single Window customs facilitation system that will aid in expediting intra-ASEAN trade and make it easier for United States businesses to operate in the region;

Whereas the U.S.-ASEAN Business Alliance for Competitive SMEs has already trained 4,600 small to medium enterprises, with nearly half of the individuals trained being young women entrepreneurs;

Whereas United States-ASEAN development cooperation has focused on innovation and capacity-building efforts in technology, education, disaster management, food security, human rights, and trade facilitation;

Whereas the Lower Mekong Initiative, established on July 23, 2009, is a multinational effort that helps promote sustainable economic development in mainland Southeast Asia to foster integrated, multisectoral, subregional cooperation and capacity building;

Whereas the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) was signed by all members of ASEAN and the People’s Republic of China (PRC) on November 4, 2002, committing ASEAN and the PRC to “exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability,” and reaffirming “that the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea would further promote peace and stability in the region and agree to work, on the basis of consensus, toward the eventual attainment of this objective”;

Whereas the leaders of the United States and ASEAN, at their Special Leaders Summit in Sunnylands, California, on February 16, 2016, reaffirmed their shared commitment to maintain peace, security, and stability in the region.

Whereas the United States supports the East Asia Summit (EAS) as the premier leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on political, security, and economic issues in the region and commends the direction set in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration at the EAS 10th anniversary, including the new exchange mechanism for EAS members’ ambassadors;

Whereas ASEAN is a partner to the United States on key transnational challenges, such as terrorism, violent extremism, environmental degradation, pollution, energy, infectious diseases, disarmament, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cybersecurity, trafficking in persons, illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, and illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing;

Whereas the United States, ASEAN, and other Dialogue Partners, through the 2015 East Asia Summit, adopted

a statement on transnational cyber issues that emphasizes the importance of regional cooperation to improve the security and stability of cyber networks, setting an important precedent for strengthening practical cooperation, risk reduction, and confidence building in cyberspace;

Whereas the 2016 East Asia Summit in Vientiane adopted a statement on nonproliferation that reaffirmed the United States, ASEAN, and other Dialogue Partners' leaders' support for efforts at the national, regional, and international level to promote nuclear disarmament, nuclear nonproliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and reiterated the importance of nuclear security to combating nuclear terrorism;

Whereas North Korea's provocative missile launches and nuclear tests highlighted the threat posed by its nuclear and ballistic missile programs and contradicts calls by ASEAN leaders at the 2016 East Asia Summit in Vientiane for North Korea to abide by multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions and international obligations;

Whereas the ASEAN region has experienced natural disasters including Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines;

Whereas conservation and sustainable management of forests throughout ASEAN play an important role in helping to reduce the risks of extreme weather events and other natural disasters, and provide sustainable economic livelihood opportunities for local communities;

Whereas the United States will pursue initiatives that are consistent with broader sustainable development goals,

including the achievement of food security and poverty alleviation throughout the ASEAN region;

Whereas the United States is a committed partner with ASEAN on the protection of human rights, which are not only essential for fostering and maintaining stability, security, and good governance, but protecting the basic rights and fundamental dignities of the people of ASEAN;

Whereas, on November 18, 2012, ASEAN member states came together and adopted an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration that, by its own terms, “affirms all the civil and political rights” and the “economic social and cultural rights” in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas the United States supports the work and mandate of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), including capacity building for the promotion and protection of human rights and the AICHR’s priorities programs, and activities;

Whereas the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Program has now engaged over 100,000 people between the ages of 18 and 35 across all ten ASEAN nations to promote innovation among young people while also providing skills to a new generation who will create and fill the jobs of the future;

Whereas the irregular movement of persons continues to be one of the main security threats in the Southeast Asia region;

Whereas addressing migration flows and combating human smuggling and human trafficking in ASEAN is an impor-

tant, ongoing challenge requiring increased coordination and shared responsibility;

Whereas, on November 21, 2015, ASEAN member states signed the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which represents an important step forward in preventing human trafficking, prosecuting the perpetrators, and protecting the survivors;

Whereas the United States supports ASEAN member states in anticorruption efforts through, among other initiatives, the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption;

Whereas Vice President Pence traveled to Jakarta, Indonesia, on April 20, 2017, where he met with the ASEAN Secretary General and ASEAN Permanent Representatives, congratulated ASEAN on its 50th anniversary, and remarked on the 40th anniversary of the United States diplomatic relationship with ASEAN, noting that the U.S.-ASEAN relationship has “without a doubt has benefitted both ASEAN and America—diplomatically, economically, and from the standpoint of national security”;

Whereas, on this visit, Vice President Pence pledged that the United States would “redouble our cooperation with ASEAN on issues of regional security” and continue to support “increased information sharing and security efforts to protect our people and our way of life across the ASEAN region and across the wider world,” and “continue to work closely with ASEAN to promote peace and stability in the South China Sea by upholding a rules-based order, ensuring the lawful and unimpeded flow of commerce, and encouraging the peaceful and diplomatic resolution of disputes.”;

Whereas, on this visit, Vice President Pence remarked that “By strengthening our economic ties, the United States and ASEAN member nations can foster jobs, prosperity, and growth in new and unprecedented ways.” and that “American exports to ASEAN member nations already support more than 550,000 jobs in the United States, and almost 42,000 U.S. companies export more than \$100 billion in goods and services to ASEAN nations every year.”; and

Whereas, on this visit, Vice President Pence announced that President Trump will attend the U.S.-ASEAN Summit, the East Asia Summit, and the APEC Leaders Meeting in Vietnam and the Philippines in November 2017: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) welcomes the leaders of the Association of
3 South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to the United
4 States for the meetings with Secretary of State Rex
5 Tillerson and members of Congress and affirms the
6 meeting as the first of regular United States-
7 ASEAN meetings;

8 (2) supports and affirms the elevation of the
9 United States-ASEAN relationship to a strategic
10 partnership and recommits the United States to
11 ASEAN centrality and to helping to build a strong,
12 stable, politically cohesive, economically integrated,
13 and socially responsible ASEAN community with
14 common rules, norms, procedures, and standards

1 consistent with international law and the principles
2 of a rules-based Asia-Pacific community;

3 (3) urges ASEAN to continue its efforts to fos-
4 ter greater integration and unity toward the ASEAN
5 community;

6 (4) recognizes the value of ASEAN working
7 with economic, political, and security partners, such
8 as Australia, Canada, the European Union, India,
9 Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of
10 Korea, and Taiwan both inside of and outside of
11 Asia, as the advantage of strategic economic initia-
12 tives like the U.S.-ASEAN Connect that dem-
13 onstrate a commitment to ASEAN and the AEC and
14 build upon economic relationships in the region;

15 (5) reaffirms the enhancement of United
16 States-ASEAN economic engagement, including the
17 elimination of barriers to cross-border commerce,
18 and supports the ASEAN Economic Community's
19 goals, including strong, inclusive, and sustainable
20 growth and cooperation with the United States that
21 focuses on innovation and capacity building efforts
22 in technology, education, disaster management, food
23 security, human rights, and trade facilitation, in-
24 cluding for ASEAN's poorest countries;

1 (6) supports efforts by ASEAN member states
2 to address maritime and territorial disputes in a
3 constructive manner and to pursue claims through
4 peaceful, diplomatic, and legitimate regional and
5 international arbitration mechanisms, consistent
6 with international law, including through the adop-
7 tion of a code of conduct in the South China Sea to
8 further promote peace and stability in the region;

9 (7) urges all parties to maritime and territorial
10 disputes in the Asia-Pacific region, including the
11 People's Republic of China, to—

12 (A) exercise self-restraint in the conduct of
13 activities that would undermine stability or
14 complicate or escalate disputes through the use
15 of coercion, intimidation, or military force; and

16 (B) refrain from new efforts to militarize
17 uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, and other
18 features, including but not limited to the con-
19 struction of new garrisons and facilities, and
20 the relocation of additional military personnel,
21 materiel, or equipment;

22 (8) opposes actions by any country to prevent
23 any other country from exercising its sovereign
24 rights to the resources of the exclusive economic
25 zone (EEZ) and continental shelf by seeking to en-

1 force claims to those areas in the South China Sea
2 that have no support in international law;

3 (9) opposes unilateral declarations of adminis-
4 trative and military districts in contested areas in
5 the South China Sea;

6 (10) supports efforts to negotiate the joint
7 management of maritime resources through diplo-
8 macy and peaceful negotiation;

9 (11) urges parties to refrain from unilateral ac-
10 tions that cause permanent physical damage to the
11 marine environment and supports the efforts of the
12 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
13 and ASEAN to implement guidelines to address ille-
14 gal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the re-
15 gion;

16 (12) supports efforts by United States partners
17 and allies in ASEAN—

18 (A) to enhance maritime capability and
19 maritime domain awareness;

20 (B) to protect unhindered access to and
21 use of international waterways in the Asia-Pa-
22 cific region that are critical to ensuring the se-
23 curity and free flow of commerce;

24 (C) to counter piracy;

1 (D) to disrupt illicit maritime trafficking
2 activities such as the trafficking of persons,
3 goods, and drugs; and

4 (E) to enhance the maritime capabilities of
5 countries or regional organizations to respond
6 to emerging threats to maritime security in the
7 Asia-Pacific region;

8 (13) urges ASEAN member states to develop a
9 common approach to reaffirm the decision of the
10 Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague's rul-
11 ing with respect to the case between the Republic of
12 the Philippines and the People's Republic of China;

13 (14) reaffirms the commitment of the United
14 States to continue joint efforts with ASEAN to halt
15 human smuggling and trafficking in persons and
16 urges ASEAN to make increased efforts to create
17 and strengthen regional mechanisms to provide as-
18 sistance and support to refugees and migrants;

19 (15) supports the Lower Mekong Initiative,
20 which has made significant progress in promoting
21 sustainable economic development in mainland
22 Southeast Asia and fostering integrated subregional
23 cooperation and capacity building;

24 (16) urges ASEAN to build capacity for the
25 promotion and protection of human rights by

1 ASEAN member states, and the implementation of
2 related priorities, programs, and activities;

3 (17) urges ASEAN governments to engage di-
4 rectly with leaders of civil society and human rights,
5 including victims of human rights abuses, and
6 prioritize the construction of forums that give these
7 stakeholders a voice to instruct public policy;

8 (18) encourages the President to communicate
9 to ASEAN leaders the importance of protecting
10 human rights, releasing political prisoners and end-
11 ing politically motivated prosecutions, strengthening
12 civil society, safeguarding the freedom of the press,
13 the freedom of assembly, and the free flow of infor-
14 mation and ideas, and promoting open and trans-
15 parent government; and

16 (19) supports the Young Southeast Asian Lead-
17 ers Initiative program as an example of people-to-
18 people partnership building that provides skills, net-
19 works, and leadership capabilities to a new genera-
20 tion of people who will create and fill jobs, foster
21 cross-border cooperation and partnerships, and rise
22 to solve the regional and global challenges of the fu-
23 ture.

