



May 2, 2017

The Honorable Mazie Hirono  
United States Senate  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Steve Daines  
United States Senate  
320 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hirono and Senator Daines:

On behalf of travel and lodging leaders across the country, we are writing in strong support of S. 504, your legislation to permanently authorize the U.S. Government to issue APEC Business Travel Cards (ABTC) to U.S. citizens – an essential tool for U.S. commerce abroad.

Together, the U.S. Travel Association and the American Hotel and Lodging Association represent thousands of public and private establishments servicing the business traveler. Since 2014, we have heard over and over about the importance of ABTCs for American business people traveling in Pacific Rim countries.

For a modest fee, eligible U.S. citizens doing business in APEC nations take full advantage of the expedited entry afforded by ABTC membership. On busy business schedules, the added efficiency saves time and averts wear-and-tear – and means that our citizens can better compete with foreign nationals who also benefit from ABTCs authorized by their own countries.

Without legislative action, all current ABTCs for Americans will expire by 2021 – unnecessarily undermining our competitiveness. In this context, we commend your efforts to permanently reauthorize ABTCs for U.S. citizens, a straightforward solution to an imminent problem. Your legislation also sends a powerful message of support for U.S. business outreach around the globe.

Thank you again for your bipartisan leadership on S. 504. Please let us know how we can help hasten its enactment during this congressional session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger J. Dow".

Roger J. Dow  
President and CEO  
U.S. Travel Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine G. Lugar".

Katherine Lugar  
President and CEO  
American Hotel & Lodging Association