

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2857

To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain membership status for India in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2016

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. WARNER) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain membership status for India in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and for other purposes.

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. PARTICIPATION OF INDIA IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC**
4 **ECONOMIC COOPERATION REGIONAL ECO-**
5 **NOMIC FORUM.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The Republic of India is the world's ninth
8 largest economy in nominal terms and the third
9 largest economy based on purchasing-power parity.

1 (2) The United States-India partnership is vital
2 to United States strategic interests in the Asia-Pa-
3 cific region and across the globe, and is an integral
4 aspect to the Administration's Rebalance to Asia.

5 (3) United States-India bilateral trade and in-
6 vestment continue to expand, supporting thousands
7 of United States jobs.

8 (4) The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
9 (APEC) regional economic forum is the premier
10 Asia-Pacific economic forum with a goal to support
11 sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the
12 Asia-Pacific region.

13 (5) APEC works to champion free, open trade
14 and investment, to promote and accelerate regional
15 economic integration, to encourage economic and
16 technical cooperation, to enhance human security,
17 and to facilitate a favorable and sustainable business
18 environment.

19 (6) APEC held a moratorium on new member-
20 ship from 1997 to 2010, which has since been lifted.

21 (7) India has pursued membership in APEC for
22 over 20 years, and became an APEC observer in No-
23 vember 2011 at the invitation of the United States,
24 when the forum met in Hawaii.

1 (8) India enjoys a location within the Asia-Pa-
2 cific region which provides an avenue for continued
3 trade and investment partnerships with APEC mem-
4 ber states.

5 (9) India has been or is pursuing bilateral or
6 multilateral trade agreements with the majority of
7 APEC member states.

8 (10) India's "Look East, Act East" strategy to
9 expand economic engagement with East and South-
10 east Asia demonstrates its effort to pursue external
11 oriented, market-driven economic policies.

12 (b) ACTIONS.—The Secretary of State shall—

13 (1) develop a strategy to obtain membership
14 status for India in APEC, including participation in
15 related meetings, working groups, activities, and
16 mechanisms; and

17 (2) actively urge APEC member states to sup-
18 port such membership status for India.

19 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
20 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
21 submit to Congress a report, in unclassified form, describ-
22 ing the United States strategy to obtain membership sta-
23 tus for India in APEC. Such report shall be updated and
24 submitted annually until such time as India obtains mem-

1 bership in APEC. Each such report shall include the fol-
2 lowing:

3 (1) A description of the efforts the Secretary
4 has made to encourage APEC member states to pro-
5 mote India's bid to obtain membership status.

6 (2) The further steps the Secretary will take to
7 assist India in obtaining membership status for
8 APEC.

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