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September 29, 2016

Honorable Hun Sen
Prime Minister
Kingdom of Cambodia
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Dear Prime Minister Hun Sen,

I wanted to write to you to tell you how embarrassed I was when I heard about the completely uninformed (and politically motivated) resolution recently introduced by Congressman Alan Lowenthal from California.

This resolution is full of misconceptions—and outright lies—about the Kingdom of Cambodia.

I do not believe Congressman Lowenthal has even been to Cambodia (but if he has he didn't seem to learn much). I have visited your wonderful country, as you know, and spent time getting to know the resilient people of Cambodia as well as your incredible history and culture.

The resolution makes a bogus demand for "free and fair elections," ignoring the fact *that there have been free and fair elections in Cambodia for the last 30 years!*

Your administration has also kept Cambodia free from communist and socialist entanglements.....entanglements that would have had a devastating effect on the freedom and security the citizens of Cambodia enjoy under your leadership.

If the citizens of Cambodia have concerns and want changes in the laws that govern their country, they have the freedom to address those issues through freely elected members of parliament. That is how free governments are supposed to work.

Civil unrest in any country, especially smaller countries like Cambodia, results in a loss of foreign investment and causes a detrimental effect on the economy making things worse for all citizens. Stability and security are critical to maintaining democracy and the trust of foreign trading partners. It is this stability that has led Cambodia to so many recent successes.

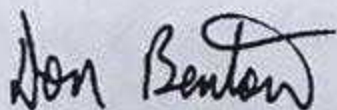
I want to again congratulate you for keeping your country free, safe and prosperous for the last 30 years. The economy and quality of life for all Cambodians has increased dramatically under your leadership, which is why you continue to be re-elected by a wide margin despite your detractors' lies and misinformation campaigns.

Unfortunately, this misinformation campaign has duped some people, like Congressman Lowenthal, into believing that your government has oppressed its citizens.

You and I, as well as the majority of thoughtful Cambodian citizens who continue to re-elect you, know that nothing could be further from the truth. Your wise and decisive leadership has been crucial to transitioning the citizens of Cambodia from the horrifying effects of 70's genocide into a new era of economic prosperity and personal freedom.

I will continue to share the real truth of your successes and the tremendous freedoms your citizens enjoy with my colleagues in government and in the private sector as I continue encourage investment in your great country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Benton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Don Benton (R)
17th Legislative District