

By: Senators B. King, Elliott
By: Representative Barnett

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE,
SOVEREIGNTY, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN AND ITS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Subtitle

URGING CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE
INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, AND
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN AND ITS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE UNITED STATES.

WHEREAS, the Republic of Azerbaijan is a strategic partner of the United States in the strategically important South Caucasus region bordering Iran, Russia, and Central Asia; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Azerbaijan established diplomatic relations on February 28, 1992; and

WHEREAS, the United States supports the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan; and

WHEREAS, over the past twenty years, the United States and Azerbaijan expanded their partnership and developed a cooperative relationship on issues dealing with energy security, international anti-terrorism, drug and human



trafficking, and the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and

WHEREAS, United States Secretary of State John Kerry stated on June 3, 2013, that Azerbaijan has been an important partner in Afghanistan and with the International Security Assistance Force, and that Azerbaijan holds great importance in terms of distribution routes, gas lines, and other issues that are critical to the United States; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade, Azerbaijan has successfully rebuilt its economy; gained the distinction of having one of the most rapidly developing economies globally; tripled its gross domestic product; accounted for 80% of the gross domestic product of the South Caucasus region; and worked to become the biggest trade partner of the United States in the South Caucasus region; and

WHEREAS, Azerbaijan initiated a number of strategically important trans-regional energy and transportation projects such as the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline, and the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway that contribute to the prosperity of Azerbaijan and regional allies of the United States such as Turkey and Georgia; and

WHEREAS, conflicts in the South Caucasus region should not be permitted to threaten the peace and stability of Azerbaijan or impede or prevent the creation of favorable conditions for economic development and comprehensive cooperation in the region; and

WHEREAS, the international community, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the Non-Aligned Movement has reaffirmed support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate supports the strategic partnership between the United States and the Republic of Azerbaijan and urges support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, the Secretary of the Senate transmit a certified copy to the President and Vice President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the Arkansas Congressional Delegation.