

# Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines



**AMCHAM  
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**AMERICAN**

American Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. ♦ Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (Phils.), Inc.  
Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. ♦ European Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc.  
Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Phils., Inc. ♦ Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc.  
Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc.

October 10, 2014

**Hon. Aquilino Pimentel III**

Chairman  
Committee on Justice  
Pasay City



**AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND**

**Dear Senator Pimentel:**

We write in reference to the public hearing held on October 8 the Senate Justice Committee on Senate Bill 1731 – Strengthening the Rights of Foreigners to Lease Private Lands.

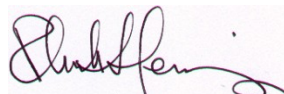
We support the bill's proposal to simplify leases by foreigners of private lands and to extend the maximum period of lease to 80 years and 99 years in the case of leases for the purpose of building residential or office condominium.

The reform proposed in SB 1731 filed by Senator Antonio Trillanes will encourage more foreign investments in real estate and agriculture in the Philippines by allowing foreigners to use leased land for longer periods. The foreigners who will invest in condominium projects may be allowed to lease land for 99 years. Both reforms should help the economy.

We commend your committee's efforts to level the playing field short of constitutional amendment. We agree that the passage of this bill will encourage more investment in the country.

Thank you again for considering our views.

Sincerely,



**RHICKE JENNINGS**

President

American Chamber of Commerce  
of the Philippines Inc.



**IAN PORTER**

President

Australian-New Zealand Chamber  
of Commerce of the Philippines Inc.



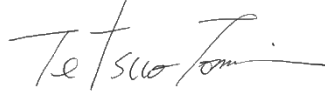
**PAMURI**



**JULIAN PAYNE**  
President  
Canadian Chamber of Commerce  
of the Philippines, Inc.



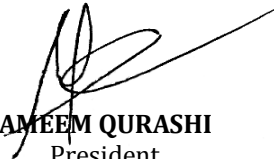
**MICHAEL RAEUBER**  
President  
European Chamber of Commerce  
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**TETSUO TOMINO**  
President  
Japanese Chamber of Commerce  
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**EUN GAP CHANG**  
President  
Korean Chamber of Commerce  
of the Philippines, Inc.



**SHAMEEM QURASHI**  
President  
Philippine Association of Multinational Companies  
Regional Headquarters, Inc.