



## Washington State Senate

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

Prime Minister Sen,

Warm greetings from the United States. I wanted to take a moment to personally reach out and congratulate you on your governments' exemplary leadership when it comes to safeguarding the security and sovereignty of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Protecting and preserving a nation's territorial integrity is among the most important duties that any national leader can undertake. In fact, the protection of national boundaries underlies our entire modern international system (as embodied in the Charter of the United Nations). Without clearly defined national boundaries no country can protect the fundamental interests of its citizens, or provide thoughtful leadership in critical areas like economic development, environmental degradation, or the protection of cultural antiquities.

In particular, I have been closely following what seem to be baseless attacks directed towards your government on the issue of national boundary lines on your eastern border. Despite your governments' use of modern technologies like GPS (not to mention studying the actual historical maps of the United States, France, and the United Nations itself) these politically-motivated attacks continue. This is most unfortunate. From the reports I have read, your administration has been extremely proactive in the resolution of this issue, including arranging face to face talks with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) this past July. It is my understanding that these talks were fruitful, but that the work of the *Vietnam-Cambodia Joint Border Committee* continues. These bilateral talks are critical to maintaining and growing the peace and prosperity that the Kingdom has enjoyed since free elections were first held 25 years ago.

It is my sincere hope that now that the afore mentioned countries have produced original source documents supporting your governments' demarcation policies, the ancient Khmer civilization will be able to return to a focus on reconciliation, democratization, and international commerce that will increase the quality of life for average Cambodians.

My colleagues and I stand ready to assist the Cambodian people in any way we can.

Sincerely,  


Senator Don Benton  
Vancouver, Washington