



ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA

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ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY INITIATIVE TO BECOME LAW

U.S. Counters Turkish Attempt to Isolate Armenia

Washington, DC – Longtime Armenian issues leader Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) last week hailed the unanimous passage of legislation that included a provision to prevent U.S. financing of a nearly \$800 million railway project benefiting Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgian while deliberately excluding Armenia.

“I am pleased that this legislation has passed the House and includes an identical amendment to the one I passed in the Senate on a railroad in the Caucasus,” Menendez told the Assembly. The amendment, which Menendez introduced along with Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA), was adopted by the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee in September.

“I believe that we cannot continue to stoke the embers of regional conflict by supporting projects that deliberately exclude one of the region’s most important members,” Menendez continued. “Fundamentally, these amendments are about fairness and about inclusion, rather than exclusion. With these amendments, we have sent a simple message -- that we believe that the United States should support an integrated and inclusive approach to economic and regional development in the Caucasus region. I hope to see this enacted into law in the future.”

“We commend Senator Menendez for ensuring that this critical provision was approved by Congress,” said Assembly Board of Trustees Chairman Hirair Hovnanian. “Attempts to exclude or isolate Armenia will not go unanswered. The Armenian Assembly has a proud record of working to ensure a secure, prosperous and democratic Armenia.”

The Armenian Assembly of America is the largest Washington-based nationwide organization promoting public understanding and awareness of Armenian issues. It is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt membership organization.

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