



July 12, 2006

**Testimony Before Senate Finance Committee on S.3495- A Bill To Authorize the
Extension of Nondiscriminatory Treatment (Normal Trade Relations Treatment) to
the Products of Vietnam**

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

We would like to present the following testimony to the Committee on behalf of ourselves personally and our Companies both in the United States and in Vietnam.

We are representative of a generation of people, American and Vietnamese who were directly affected by the Vietnam War. Our story is not unique but one of thousands of success stories enjoyed by the Vietnamese people who came here after the war and found a new life. My husband came to the USA in 1979 after a harrowing year in the refugee camps of Malaysia. He had 2 Malaysian dollars in his pocket when he arrived and nothing else except a determination and a drive to survive in a new country. He found opportunities and acceptance here to do that. Today we have a group of businesses that do over 100 million dollars in sales a year in the United States and employ over 400 people.

When relations with Vietnam normalized we decided to invest in Vietnam to share our success and to build something there for the benefit of Kia's countrymen and home town. We built the first modern shrimp farm in Vietnam. The technology and training and technique were supplied by American experts in the field who were excited about the opportunity to open the industry in Vietnam. Our company in Vietnam has over 800 hectares of land under the cultivation of shrimp. Americans wishing to do businesses in Vietnam see us as an example of the possibility for success. We have been there for over 10 years. The people of Vietnam see our enterprise as an example of American generosity and willingness to support their economy. Our farm, Duyen Hai, has been praised by the Government of Vietnam and the people as an example of America's influence in Vietnam

The purpose of this letter is to encourage the Senate Finance Committee to pass Senate Bill S.3495 granting nondiscriminatory treatment (permanent normal trade relations) to products of Vietnam

Doing so will allow the governments of Vietnam and the United States to formally reflect the attitudes already held by the peoples of both countries.

1. Between North Vietnam and South Vietnam the war is over and the people have come together in one forward facing, dynamic home.
2. The war between the USA and Vietnam is also over now 31 years. Americans are welcome by the people of Vietnam both as visitors and as investors. American culture and products are well received by the Vietnamese public in Vietnam.
3. Between the Vietnamese people, those that left Vietnam can now reunite with their families that stayed behind. Also those that left are welcome and looked upon with friendship and brotherhood by the people of Vietnam.
4. The governments of the United States and Vietnam have already reached the most of the agreements which will allow a normal relationship between the two countries and Vietnams entry into the WTO.
5. We believe the new leadership of Vietnam is committed to bringing Vietnam forward to join the world's nations in a spirit of cooperation and development. The country of Vietnam is leaping into the 21 century and is ready to step up and make the changes required to accomplish this.
6. The passage of this bill will help Americans here and in Vietnam to do business with Vietnam. It will signify the stability of Vietnam's position as a trade partner. Commerce will be entered into with a feeling of safety and normality on both sides. Financing and banking relationships will be improved and more available in both countries. Business in general will be able to move forward more quickly. Passage of this bill will bolster the growing good relationship and communication between the two countries.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. We hope that in the passing of this bill and the entry of Vietnam into the WTO the final effects of the War will pass into history and new chapters will begin in the story of the United States and Vietnam.

Thank you

Lucy and Kia Tran,
South China Seafood Company,
Los Angeles California

Duyen Hai Bac Lieu Company,
Bac Lieu Vietnam