

## Chairman Royce Fights Land Grabbing in the Philippines

### Dear Friend,

I have long been a strong advocate for the Filipino-American community and its interests both in the United States and in the Philippines. As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, one of my foreign policy priorities is ending the practice of “land grabbing” in the Philippines. Land ownership in the Philippines is often informal and without clear title, leaving it open to manipulation. In the case of land grabbing, perpetrators can be local politicians, foreign investors, and well-connected people. Because property rights are essential to stability and economic growth, we must do all we can to encourage nations to offer protections to their citizens.

Recently, I convened a House Foreign Affairs Committee field hearing on “Property Rights and Development in Southeast Asia” at Cal Poly Pomona to bring attention to this important issue. Five bipartisan Members of Congress joined the hearing and heard testimony from U.S. officials and victims of land grabbing in the Philippines. Over 600 community members from California attended the hearing, demonstrating how important this issue is to Filipino-Americans.



*Lieutenant Lane Lagaret, Chief of Police Services in Yorba Linda, recently invited Chairman Royce to tour his station and learn more about the challenges faced by law enforcement.*



*Chairman Royce was joined by over 600 Southern Californians at his Congressional field hearing at Cal Poly Pomona on the injustice of land grabbing in the Philippines.*

I was encouraged that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced its renewed dedication to combating land grabbing at the hearing when the Assistant Administrator for Asia Jonathan Stivers announced the launch of a new program called "Strengthening Urban Resilience for Growth with Equity" (SURGE). The program aims to spark inclusive economic growth outside the national capital region and aid poverty alleviation efforts. The five-year mechanism will support up to \$48 million in programming. The program will seek to improve land management information and coordination at the local level, and strengthen the capacity of land management offices to secure land and access rights.

Land grabbing is an injustice that hinders the Philippines' economic growth and Congress can help stop it. As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I will continue to work to ensure that the practice of



*Chairman Royce meets with community members at his Congressional hearing on property rights which featured U.S. officials testifying on the injustices in the Philippines.*

land grabbing in the Philippines ends and the Filipino-American community is protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Royce".

Ed Royce  
Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee



*Chairman Royce meets with constituents about issues important to the Filipino-American community. Chairman Royce can assist you or your family with booking tours in Washington or dealing with federal agencies like the Social Security Administration, do not hesitate to contact him at (714) 255-0101 or via his website [www.royce.house.gov](http://www.royce.house.gov).*

# Chairman Royce Protects Filipino Interests

For 70 years, a United States military presence in the Asia-Pacific has played a vital role in fostering regional peace, stability, and security. As Beijing's naval power grows, it is critical that America continues to ensure that the Philippines' interests are protected. Chairman Royce is a leading supporter for the U.S. standing up for freedom of navigation and lawful uses of sea and airspace in Asia, all of which is crucial to U.S.-Philippines relations due to the trade between the two countries. Beijing's actions in the South China Sea are making our friends and allies in the region nervous. The House of Representatives and Chairman Royce passed House Resolution 714 calling for the peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea as provided for by universally recognized principles of international law. Chairman Royce will continue to monitor Beijing's behavior and ensure that the Philippines' sovereignty is protected.



*Chairman Royce has advanced legislation to create stronger ties between the United States and Philippines. He's pictured here with Philippines Ambassador to the United States Jose Lampe Cuisia at a press conference on U.S.-Philippines relations.*



*Chairman Royce meets with his Filipino counterpart, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario, to discuss Beijing's aggression in the South China Sea and protecting the Philippines' sovereignty in the region.*

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*Ed Royce*

*Official Business*

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and mailed at taxpayer expense.*

## Chairman Royce Improves Disaster Relief Efforts in the Philippines

Shortly after Typhoons Yolanda and Haiyan hit the Philippines, Chairman Royce led bipartisan Congressional delegations to the Philippines where he aided in relief efforts. In an effort to make improvements to the delivery of relief ahead of future natural disasters in the Philippines, Chairman Royce is reforming laws that needlessly delay American relief. Chairman Royce led

the House Foreign Affairs Committee in advancing the Global Food Security Act, legislation to make American disaster relief more efficient. The President later signed this bill into law. Delivering assistance in the critical hours after a disaster is often the difference between life and death for weary survivors.



*Chairman Royce joined official relief delivery efforts by the U.S. to those in need after natural disasters in the Philippines and commemorated the lives lost in these terrible storms.*



*Chairman Royce participated in efforts to deliver official American disaster relief to Tacloban after Typhoon Haiyan during one of the Congressional delegation trips he led to the country.*

### District Offices

*Downtown Brea • 210 W Birch Street, Suite 201, Brea, CA 92821*

*Diamond Plaza • 1380 S. Fullerton Rd., Suite 205, Rowland Heights, CA 91748*

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***If I can be of assistance, please call (714) 255-0101 or (626) 964-5123***