



ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
REPRESENTATIVE JAMES P. MCGOVERN, CHAIRMAN
SENATOR MARCO RUBIO, COCHAIRMAN

May 23, 2019

The Honorable Carrie Lam
The Chief Executive
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China
Office of the Chief Executive
Hong Kong

Dear Chief Executive Lam:

We are writing to express our concerns with the proposed amendments to Hong Kong's extradition laws, the *Fugitive Offenders Ordinance* and the *Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance*. We are concerned the proposed changes could negatively impact the unique relationship between the United States and Hong Kong and we ask that the amendments be withdrawn from consideration.

Over the past two decades, the U.S.-Hong Kong relationship has flourished due in part to the special relationship established by the *U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992*. This law commits the United States to supporting Hong Kong's rights under international agreements and treating Hong Kong as a separate customs territory from the rest of China, so long as Hong Kong remains "sufficiently autonomous." We believe the proposed legislation would irreparably damage Hong Kong's cherished autonomy and protections for human rights by allowing the Chinese government to request extradition of business persons, journalists, rights advocates, and political activists residing in Hong Kong.

The special arrangement has allowed U.S.-Hong Kong trade to grow significantly since the British handover of Hong Kong. If the extradition amendments are passed into law, we fear American and international firms and corporations may opt to move their headquarters from Hong Kong to another city in the region that does not put foreign citizens at risk of extradition to mainland China.

In recent years, the Chinese government has arbitrarily detained individuals such as U.S. businesswoman Sandy Phan-Gillis, Hong Kong bookseller Gui Minhai, Swedish rights worker Peter Dahlin, former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig, and Taiwan citizen Lee Ming-cheh. No local or foreign national residing in, visiting, or transiting through Hong Kong should have to fear the same treatment under the proposed extradition amendments.

We ask your government to preserve Hong Kong's reputation as a center of commerce governed by the rule of law by withdrawing the proposed extradition bill. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you to strengthen U.S.-Hong Kong relations.

Sincerely,



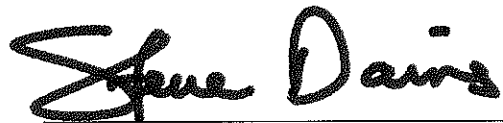
JAMES P. McGOVERN
U.S. Representative



MARCO RUBIO
U.S. Senator



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
U.S. Representative



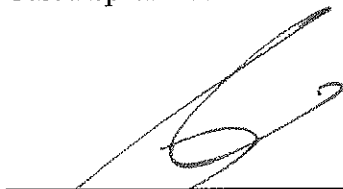
STEVE DAINES
U.S. Senator



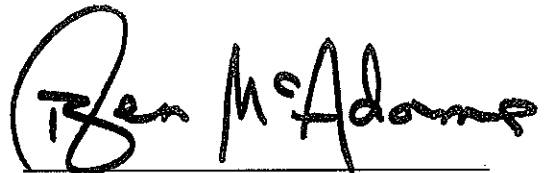
THOMAS R. SUOZZI
U.S. Representative



TOM COTTON
U.S. Senator



BRIAN MAST
U.S. Representative



BEN McADAMS
U.S. Representative