

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 21, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Members of the United States Congress, we write to urge you to appoint the position of Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues at the U.S. Department of State as soon as possible.

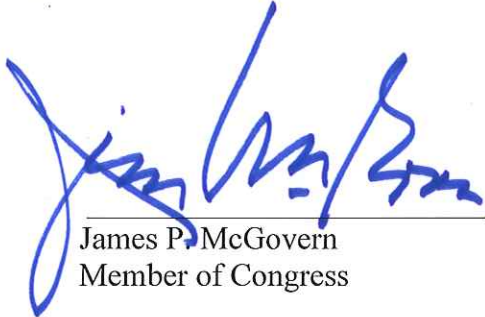
The preservation of Tibet's unique religious, cultural and linguistic traditions and the equal protection of the human rights of Tibetans in China have widespread support among the American people and strong bipartisan support in Congress. The core purpose of the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (TPA), the principal legislation guiding U.S. policy toward Tibet, is "to support the aspirations of the Tibetan people to safeguard their distinct identity." In order to achieve this purpose, the Congress established the position of Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, whose mandates include to "vigorously promote the policy of seeking to protect the distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and national identity of Tibet," and to press for "improved respect for human rights."

Since the passage of the TPA, the position of Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues has been designated at the level of Under Secretary of State. We strongly encourage you to continue this practice, as a means of communicating to the Chinese government that your administration shares the commitment of past administrations and the U.S. Congress to the rights and wellbeing of the Tibetan people.

Mr. President, this is a critical time for Tibetans. The systematic suppression of basic human rights and religious freedom – most recently evidenced by the large-scale demolitions carried out at the historic Tibetan Buddhist Institute of Larung Gar – continues unabated. The few foreigners who are allowed to visit Tibet do so in the face of many restrictions, and they report the creation of a virtual police state, with checkpoints on the roads and a pervasive climate of fear. Meanwhile, no talks have taken place between representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government since January 2010, even as millions of Tibetans have pinned their hopes for a better future on the dialogue process, continuously supported by previous U.S. administrations. The first step toward addressing all of these problems is to name a new Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you to support the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the Tibetan people.


Sincerely,



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress




Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress




Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



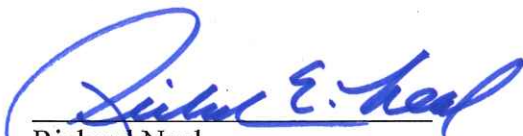
Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



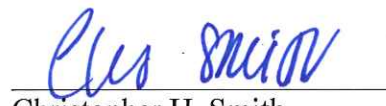
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



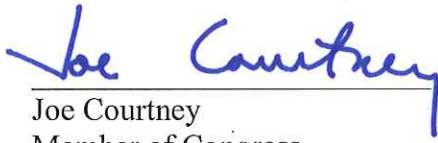
Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress



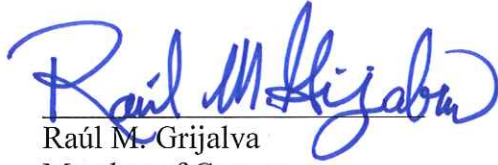
Richard Neal
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



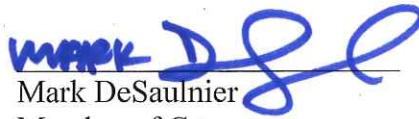
Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



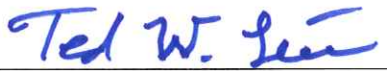
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



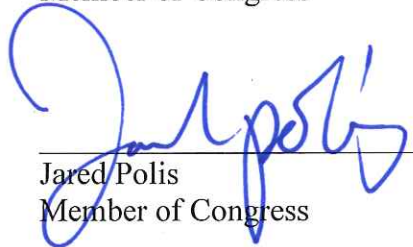
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



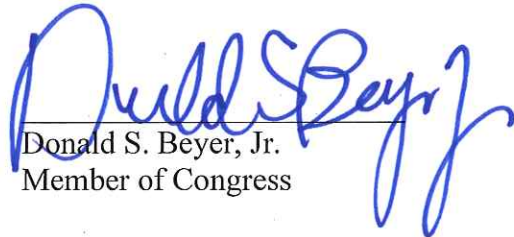
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



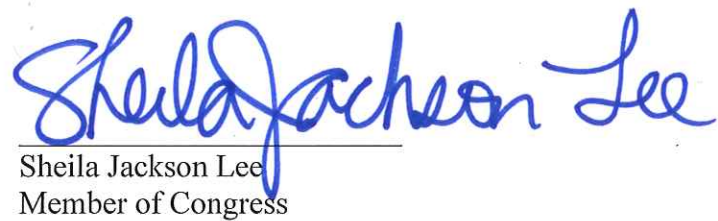
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



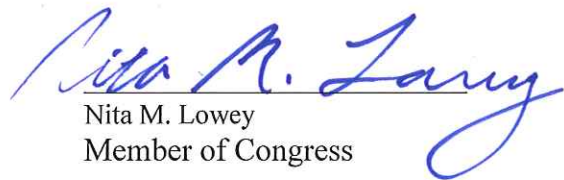
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



Sander Levin
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State