

JAMES P. MCGOVERN, Massachusetts
Co-Chairman



RANDY HULTGREN, Illinois
Co-Chairman

One Hundred and Fifteenth Congress
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

June 30, 2017

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

Dear President Trump,

As you carry out the responsibilities of the Office of the President, we in Congress stand ready to work with you to ensure America remains a leader in advocating for democracy and human rights. We urge your administration to make these issues a priority.

As you know, America has long been a leader in supporting individual rights. It was more than 240 years ago that the Founding Fathers declared that all are created equal and endowed with inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These principles have successfully formed the backbone of the American experiment in self-government.

The rights the Founders recognized are not by any means solely “American,” but rather are universal. Being fortunate to enjoy these freedoms ourselves, we have the moral imperative to promote democracy and human rights across the globe.

A world that respects human rights and abides by the rule of law strengthens the security, stability, and prosperity of America. History has demonstrated time and again that free societies are less likely to engage in aggression and launch attacks against us, their neighbors, or their own people. They are less likely to fail and become breeding grounds for instability, extremism, terrorism, and forced migration.

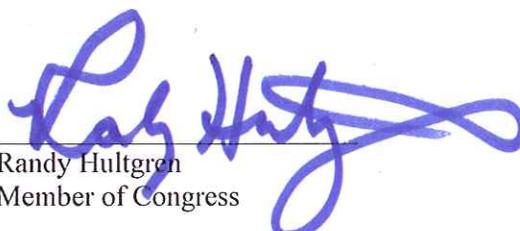
Democratic nations that respect good governance and the rights of their own citizens are also more likely to be economically successful, and to be stable and reliable trade and investment partners for the United States. Our economic partnerships with Japan, Germany, Taiwan, the Republic of Korea, and numerous other nations today stand as testament to the wisdom of far-sighted U.S. policy that seeks to develop good governance and strong democratic institutions as necessary enablers for strong economic partnerships as well.

As we have seen over the past decade, there is a creeping authoritarian resurgence across the globe, against which we are the bulwark for individual rights and freedoms. America, since its founding, has led this fight, not just for the rights of Americans found in the Constitution, but for the rights of all.

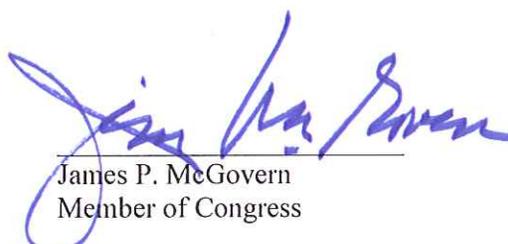
By elevating democracy and human rights to a prominent place on your foreign policy agenda you can make a measurable difference in countries around the world and ensure that America is safer, more prosperous, and more secure. There is longstanding and deep bipartisan Congressional commitment to advancing freedom around the world, just as Republican and Democratic administrations for decades have supported democracy and human rights, and we look forward to working with you on this important cause.

We ask that, as you continue to formulate your foreign and defense policies, you put the promotion of human rights front and center as a pillar of America's approach abroad.

Sincerely,



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



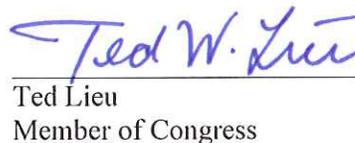
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Member of Congress



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