

JAMES P. MCGOVERN, Massachusetts
Co-Chair



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, New Jersey
Co-Chair

One Hundred and Sixteenth Congress
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

May 7, 2019

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

We write today to express our deep concern about the well-being of the Tibetan people under Chinese rule and to call on you to promptly implement key legislation that Congress has passed to guide United States policy on Tibet.

Recently, Tibet was closed off to all foreigners, as Tibetans all over the world marked the 60th anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising, the forced exile of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and the exodus of tens of thousands of refugees who have been unable to return to their homeland.

Today, the repression in Tibet continues unabated. In its latest *Freedom in the World* report, Freedom House ranked Tibet as among the least free places in the world, in the company of Syria, North Korea and South Sudan. Tibetan Buddhists are denied their religious freedom, as all religious affairs are under the oppressive control of the Chinese Communist Party.

It is therefore now more urgent than ever that the State Department fully implement current law on Tibet.

The Tibetan Policy Act (TPA) of 2002 calls for the appointment of a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues at the State Department to facilitate coordination of U.S. policy toward Tibet. This position, previously designated at the level of Under Secretary of State, has remained vacant since the beginning of the current administration. We urge you to appoint a Special Coordinator of appropriate rank as soon as possible.

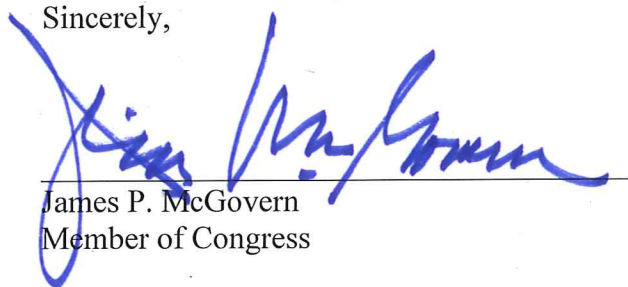
The TPA also calls on the President and Secretary to “*encourage the Government of the People’s Republic of China to enter into a dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives*”

leading to a negotiated agreement on Tibet.” We call on you and the President to publicly raise this issue and address the lack of respect for human rights in Tibet during all your meetings with senior Chinese government officials.

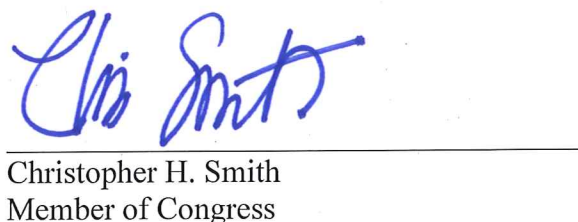
In 2018, the Congress passed the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act (RATA), which responds to the lack of access to Tibet for American citizens by reinforcing the principle of reciprocity as a central aspect of U.S.-China relations. RATA requires the State Department to report to Congress on the level of access that U.S. diplomats, journalists and American citizens are granted to Tibetan areas of China, and to provide a list of the Chinese officials who formulate or execute policies to restrict access to Tibet, who then become ineligible to receive a visa or be admitted to the United States. Robust implementation of RATA would send a strong signal both to Beijing and to the international community that the Chinese government’s discriminatory practices regarding access to Tibetan areas should not and will not be tolerated.

We look forward to working with you on this very important moral issue of our time, which greatly concerns Members of Congress and the American people.

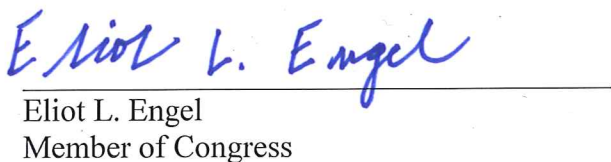
Sincerely,



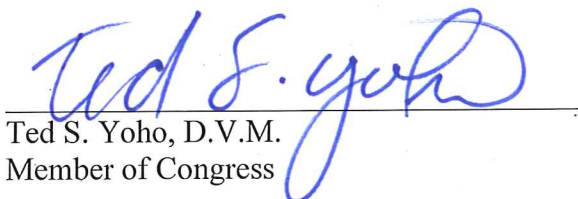
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



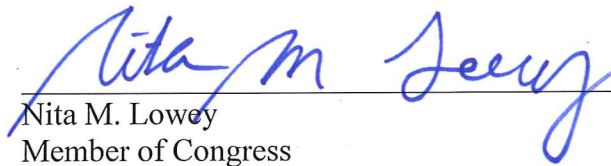
Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



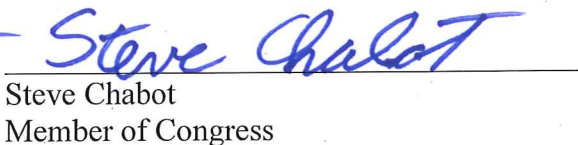
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



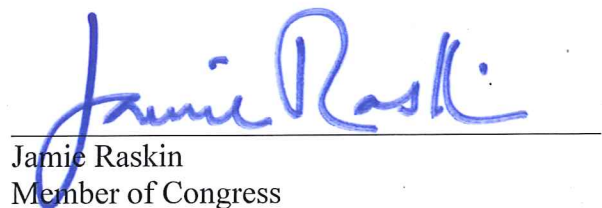
Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress



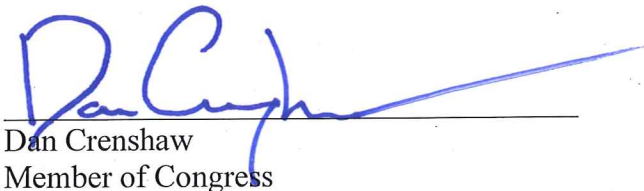
Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



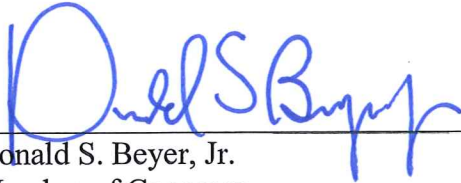
Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



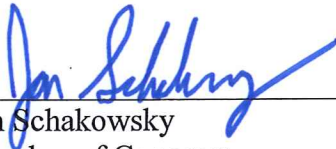
Denver Lee Riggelman III
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



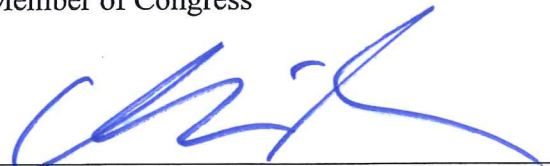
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



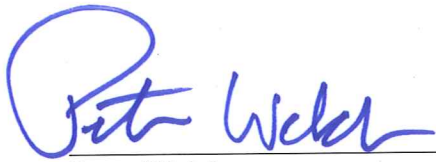
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



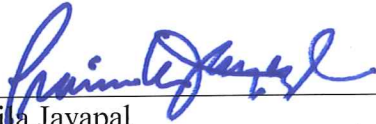
Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



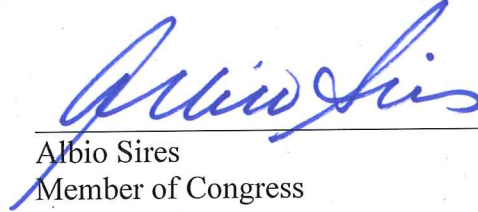
Peter Welch
Member of Congress




Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress

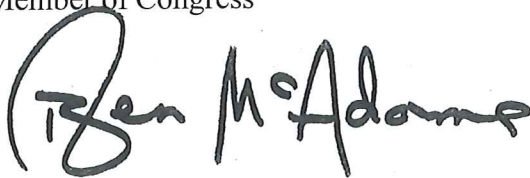


Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

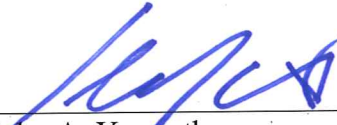
M.C.



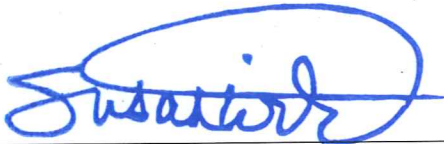
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Ben McAdams
Member of Congress



John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress