

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 16, 2023

Greetings,

This is a momentous evening as you celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Northwest Tibetan Cultural Association (NWTCA) in Portland. Since 1993, you have been a community hub for the social, spiritual, and cultural needs of Tibetans in the Portland area.

As we mark this occasion, I am inspired by the work of His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, the NWTCA, and the Tibetan diaspora around the world to preserve Tibetan culture. This work has always been crucial, and is especially so now in the face of unrelenting repression such as the cruel separation of children in Tibet from their families to be placed in colonial boarding schools. As the Chairman of the U.S. Senate's Interior appropriations subcommittee and a member of the Appropriations Committee and Foreign Relations Committee, I am committed to promoting resources for the critical work of preserving Tibetan culture.

America's values supporting freedom and self-determination for all people must be at the center of all of our actions and relationships around the world—especially as China's government pushes an alternative vision. This is why I have supported the *Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act*. This legislation makes clear that the United States views the Tibet-China conflict as unresolved and that the people of Tibet deserve a say in how they are governed. It sends a clear message to Beijing: We expect meaningful negotiations over Tibet's status and do not view China's current actions as meeting those expectations.

Congratulations again on this exciting milestone for your organization, and I look forward to the great things you will continue to do for the Tibetan community in Portland over the next 30 years and beyond.

All my best,



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator