

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4305

September 19, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Secretary Blinken,

On April 18th, 2023, we sent a letter urging you to extend a formal invitation to the Honorable Tsai Ing-wen, President of Taiwan, to attend the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' summit in San Francisco later this year. Unfortunately, your agency's response failed to adequately address our request or provide a plan of action to officially extend an invitation to President Tsai Ing-wen. Since this year's summit is quickly approaching, we would like to reiterate Taiwan is a full APEC member in good standing and deserves fair and equal treatment on par with other APEC member states.

APEC's mission to create greater prosperity for the people within the Asia-Pacific region through a balanced and inclusive forum also allows the United States to address business concerns, promote high standards in trade and commerce, and facilitate economic growth. Taiwan has made significant strides with economic, cultural, and technological contributions in not just the Asia-Pacific region but also around the world.

Taiwan is the United States' eighth-largest trading partner, a vibrant multi-party democracy, and a defender of individual liberty and human rights. Over the past few years, the United States and Taiwan have made significant progress in their economic and trade relationship with initiatives such as the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade in June 2022. Withholding an invitation to President Tsai Ing-wen for the APEC leaders' summit shortly after making major economic and trade commitments would undo years of bilateral progress with Taiwan and portray our government as hypocritical to the rest of the world.

This request comes as the Chinese Communist Party steadily increases its hostility and unwarranted measures against Taiwan and other players in the region. Beijing has consistently objected to calls for Taiwan's president to be invited to annual APEC summits since Taiwan

joined APEC in 1991 under the name “Chinese Taipei.” The United States must remain a vocal ally of Taiwan while continuing to bolster bilateral trade relations and strengthening our economic partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region. Denying the inclusion of Taiwanese leadership in APEC will only further embolden the CCP and be remembered as an immense failure of the Biden administration’s mission to uphold peace and stability in the region.

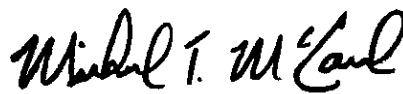
We encourage you to set a new precedent for APEC’s members by using our platform as the 2023 host nation to invite Taiwan to fully participate in the November summit. We also urge you to acknowledge the expressed wishes of the Honorable Tsai Ing-wen and the Taiwanese public for her inclusion in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Your response to this letter and plan of action no later than October 19, 2023, would be greatly appreciated.

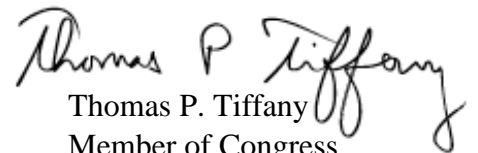
Sincerely,



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Thomas P. Tiffany
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



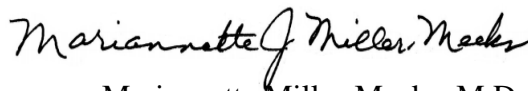
Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
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Russell Fry
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Michael Guest
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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
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