



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

16 December 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Millions of Americans across the Country are grateful for your exemplary leadership – it is because of your dedication and perseverance that America has been able to prepare a way for peace around the world.

Perhaps one of the greatest accomplishments of your first Administration has been re-orienting our National focus toward our greatest existential threat – the Chinese Communist Party. You have made it clear that the United States of America will not quietly acquiesce to their roguish behavior. Indeed, we have seen the fruits of your efforts as your Administration has cemented an unmistakable stance that holds China accountable for its criminal activities. Unfortunately, some of China’s worst crimes are against those they rule over, and more needs to be done to protect those who struggle under the subjugation of General Secretary Xi Jinping.

Some of these individuals can still remember a time where they could live in relative freedom. Tibetans residing in Tibet’s original three provinces – Amdo, Kham, and U-Tsang – have lived independently or with significant autonomy for hundreds of years; Tibet was a de facto independent country until the People’s Republic of China chose to illegally occupy the country in 1951.

Since then, numerous pieces of legislation passed by the U.S. Congress have indicated Tibet’s status as an occupied country. For the purpose of assessing possible policy options with respect to Tibetan sovereignty, it would be prudent to review some of the bills that have maintained the opinion of the Congress that Tibet is a country under illegal occupation by the People’s Republic of China.

- Congress listed Tibet as a separate country from the PRC in the Export-Import Bank Act Amendments of 1986.
- The Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993 declares that Congress views Tibet as an “occupied country”, and that China’s control of Tibet remains illegal under international law. This bill also states the view of the Congress that “numerous United States declarations since the Chinese invasion have recognized Tibet’s right to self-determination”.

- The same bill for Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 stated that it was U.S. policy to “establish a dialogue with those recognized by Congress as the true representatives of the Tibetan people, the Dalai Lama, his representatives and the Tibetan Government in Exile.” Section 309 also authorizes Radio Free Asia funding to the separate “country” of Tibet.
- The Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003, ensures funding to support human rights and democracy activities within the People’s Republic of China, Hong Kong, *and Tibet*.
- The Foreign Relations Authorization Act, 2003 provides funding for Tibetan refugees “who have fled Chinese-occupied Tibet.”

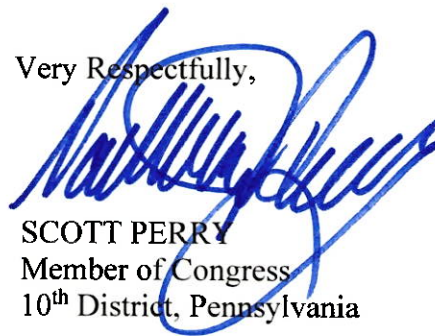
While there are numerous other examples of Congressional action in favor of labelling Tibet as its own country, this is not without contradiction. In other pieces of legislation, the U.S. Congress has affirmed Tibet to be part of China; former Presidents have maintained this erroneous position as well.

Ultimately, ambiguity in approach has been America’s default view on Tibet. After more than 70 years of uninterrupted, illegal occupation of Tibet by the People’s Republic of China, it is well past time to take a more definitive stance. We either concede that we are not willing to challenge the CCP’s grotesque violation of basic international norms – and give up all pretense to that end – or else we can proceed with the logical conclusion of Congress’ historical support of Tibet: after many decades, the Tibetan people deserve our support for a country that is still theirs. They deserve U.S. recognition of their independence.

Over the years, the United States has provided tens of millions of dollars in financial support to Tibetan communities in China, India, and Nepal, with the expressed purpose of defending a people whose primary objective is to secure the liberation of their home. Despite our past efforts, the Beijing government has commonly looked with great disdain upon Tibet and is now subjecting the Tibetan people to forced labor – the latest part of the CCP’s campaign to Sinicize any citizen who is not Han Chinese. In light of this shameful and debased activity, we must reinforce the integrity of our commitment to liberty.

Mr. President, you are perhaps the last, best hope that the Tibetan people have for independence. The American People believe in your dedication to the cause of freedom and advent of peace in our world. My hope is that, in the face of the enormous evil being perpetuated by the Chinese Communist Party, you use the exalted position of the U.S. presidency to secure a brighter, independent future for millions of Tibetans.

Very Respectfully,



SCOTT PERRY
Member of Congress
10th District, Pennsylvania