

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 22, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Blinken,

Recent media reports indicate that Taiwanese President William Lai Ching-te will soon make state visits to the Pacific nations of Tuvalu, Palau, and the Marshall Islands.¹ As part of his travel, there is speculation he will make a routine transit in the U.S., likely in either Guam or the state of Hawaii.²

In the past, the State Department has reportedly attempted to micromanage the visits of high-ranking Taiwanese officials by restricting their interaction with members of the media and limiting their ability to conduct public engagements. We hope that you will refrain from imposing arbitrary conditions of this kind during any upcoming stopover.

Not surprisingly, the Chinese authorities have already demanded that the Biden administration prevent President Lai from entering the United States.³ This brazen attempt by Beijing to interfere in our internal affairs is both outrageous and unacceptable.

Taiwan has never been under the control of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), or part the territory of the People's Republic of China, even for a single day. Moreover, the United States has never accepted the CCP's bogus territorial claims over Taiwan. These baseless claims, along with China's demands to block Mr. Lai's visit, should be forcefully and publicly rejected. After all, the United States does not have to ask the CCP for a permission slip when making decisions about who can or cannot visit our country.

As you know, U.S.-Taiwan ties are governed by the Taiwan Relations Act and several other laws enacted by Congress. None of these laws call for prohibitions or limitations on visits by high-ranking Taiwanese officials, including their duly elected president. In fact, the contrary is true: Our statutes explicitly guarantee that Taiwan's president "shall be admitted" to the U.S. for

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/taiwan-president-plans-hawaii-visit-sensitive-trip-pacific-sources-say-2024-11-15/>

² <https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2024/11/16/2003826990>

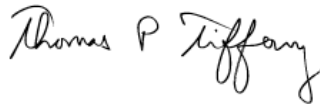
³ <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3286781/beijing-urges-us-not-let-taiwans-william-lai-transit-through-country>

discussions with American officials,⁴ and make it the policy of the United States to expand such high-level visits in the future.⁵

We trust that your department will respect these laws and welcome Mr. Lai without any preconditions or restrictions. We also hope that President Biden will consider meeting personally with Mr. Lai during his visit.

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



Andy Ogles
Member of Congress



Chris Smith
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress

⁴ Sec. 221, Public Law 103-416

⁵ Sec. 3(b)(2), Public Law 115-135