

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2024

Mayor Muriel Bowser  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW #406  
Washington, D.C,  
20004

Dear Mayor Bowser,

We write to urge you and your administration to establish sister-city ties between Washington, D.C., and Taipei. Congress, and the city of Washington, D.C., have long played a leading role in U.S.-Taiwan relations, and the greater Washington metropolitan area is home to one of the largest Taiwanese American populations in our country. Many Taiwanese Americans are deeply involved with the local D.C. community, including playing a major role in the city's annual Lunar New Year Parade.

Last month marked the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), the U.S. law that defines the robust cultural, economic, and political relationship between the United States and Taiwan. We are proud that U.S.-Taiwan relations have never been stronger than they are today, and we are confident that this relationship will continue to strengthen in the years to come. Sister-City relationships represent important symbolic partnerships expressing the social and cultural connection between communities. Far too often, our Taiwanese friends have been left isolated on the international stage, and a pact with the capital of the United States and a voice of the free world would show the international community that Taiwan is not alone.

Though it might seem a small and largely symbolic step, establishing sister-city ties would go a long way in demonstrating that the people of the United States, and Washington, D.C. in particular, stand shoulder-to-shoulder with those in Taiwan. It will send a clear message that we will not allow the Chinese Communist Party to dictate who we call our friends. We understand that there may be those in the international community who would object to this measure, however, the United States should never allow the threat of verbal retaliation and rebuke to dictate our actions. Allowing fear of others' reactions to determine our policy would only reaffirm said parties' belief that intimidation is an effective tool of statecraft.

For the reasons outlined above, we request that you establish a sister city relationship with Taipei. Your action would speak volumes to the cultural and people-to-people ties of the United States and Taiwan and be a strong point of symbolism in line with the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the TRA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Moolenaar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

John Moolenaar  
Chairman  
Select Committee on China

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marco Rubio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Barr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Andy Barr  
U.S. Representative

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pete Ricketts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Pete Ricketts  
U.S. Senator