

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 22, 2017

Ambassador Nikki R. Haley
U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations
United States Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Ambassador Haley:

As senior members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, we write to express our deep concern that Taiwanese tourists are being denied access to the United Nations building in New York.

It is no secret that China does whatever it can to diminish Taiwan on the international stage. According to news reports, China has convinced the UN to block Taiwanese tourists from entering UN headquarters in New York in its latest effort to weaken Taiwan's global standing. Allegedly, this new policy was implemented after the May 2016 inauguration of Taiwan's democratically-elected President Tsai Ing-wen. This is not an isolated example; China regularly works to block Taiwan's participation in UN-affiliated organizations such as the World Health Organization, Interpol, and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

The U.S.-Taiwan relationship is of critical importance to America's interest. It has been made clear through conversations with many of our Taiwanese-American constituents, and our continued engagement in the region that the U.S.-Taiwan relationship has only grown more vital. Taiwan is a key ally in the Asia-Pacific and we have had the opportunity to travel to Taiwan and see first-hand how trade and cooperation has reinforced this relationship for the betterment of both nations. Today, Taiwan stands as an example of true freedom and democracy against Beijing's authoritarianism and territorial ambitions.

President Trump also made clear his commitment to strengthening this relationship as well as his commitment to Taiwan's security and prosperity when he made history last year by becoming the first U.S. President-elect to speak with his Taiwanese counterpart, President Tsai Ing-wen.

In light of this strong relationship, we request that you work toward finding a solution for the indignity that Taiwanese tourists face on a daily basis when they seek to visit the United Nations building in New York.

Sincerely,



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress