

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We were pleased to learn that Taiwan's President William Lai Ching-te will soon visit the United States, his first such visit since President Trump began his second term. We hope that you or another cabinet-level official will consider meeting personally with him during this important stopover.

As you know, Congress passed legislation in 2018 – which you sponsored as a U.S. Senator¹ – making it the express policy of the United States to encourage meetings between senior U.S. officials and their Taiwanese counterparts.² Mr. Lai's expected transits in New York and Texas³ will provide a key opportunity to make use of this law.

A high-level meeting with President Lai would also underscore the importance America affixes to the U.S.-Taiwan friendship, help Taiwan cement its remaining diplomatic relationships in our hemisphere, and send a clear message that Beijing's outrageous meddling in American foreign policy is both unwelcome and unacceptable.

During President Trump's first term, the State Department rescinded several self-imposed bureaucratic obstacles to engagement with Taiwanese officials by U.S. executive branch personnel⁴ – only to have many of these arbitrary "guidelines" reimposed by your predecessor during the early days of the Biden administration.⁵

The State Department has also reportedly attempted to micromanage the U.S. visits of high-ranking Taiwanese officials in the past 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 such conditions during President Lai's upcoming visit.

¹ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1051>

² Taiwan Travel Act (Public Law 115-135)

³ <https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2025/07/16/2003840359>

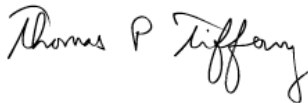
⁴ <https://2017-2021.state.gov/lifting-self-imposed-restrictions-on-the-u-s-taiwan-relationship/>

⁵ State Department Memorandum for All Department and Agency Executive Secretaries: Revised Guidelines on Interacting with Taiwan, June 29, 2021

The world has undergone dramatic changes since the era of Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter. Taiwan has become a vibrant, multi-party democracy, while Communist China has become more oppressive, more belligerent, and more dangerous. Yet America's policy framework remains frozen in time – a hopelessly antiquated relic of the 1970s. A personal meeting with President Lai would make it clear that this era is finally over.

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas P. Tiffany". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' at the beginning.

Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'C' at the beginning.

Chris Smith
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Ogles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'A' at the beginning.

Andy Ogles
Member of Congress