

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2026

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

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Mail Stop 0020
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Rubio and Secretary Mullin,

I share the recent concerns conveyed by the Trump administration regarding the violation of international civil aviation norms by three of Communist China's client states in Africa – Madagascar, Mauritius, and the Seychelles – which, reportedly at Beijing's behest, arbitrarily revoked overflight clearances for Taiwan's president in advance of his planned state visit to eSwatini.¹ This irresponsible action sets a dangerous precedent, and I hope you will take appropriate steps to hold their governments accountable.

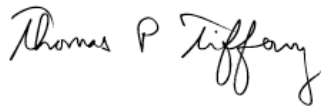
With respect to Madagascar, I would suggest that you consider freezing the more than \$100 million commitment of U.S. foreign assistance recently announced by the U.S. Embassy in Antananarivo.²

I also request that you consider adding Mauritius, which has long attempted to push the United Kingdom out of the strategically vital Chagos Islands,³ to the "travel ban" list under Section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Finally, I would ask that you suspend any consideration of or discussions with authorities in the Seychelles about its potential inclusion in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program.⁴

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress

¹ [Michael Martina, "US slams China's pressure on African countries to block Taiwan president's trip," *Reuters*, Apr. 22, 2026](#)

² [U.S. Embassy Madagascar, "United States and Madagascar to implement \\$175 million five-year health MOU, Feb. 19, 2026](#)

³ [Amb. Milan Mehtarbhan, "Time for UK to leave Chagos Archipelago," *Real Clear World*, Apr. 6, 2012](#)

⁴ [Republic of Seychelles Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, "Seychelles and the US discuss facilitation of USA Visa application procedures," Jan. 22, 2025](#)