

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 2, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Rubio:

As members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, we write to urge you to quickly appoint a qualified Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues at the U.S. Department of State, as required by law. We recommend appointing a senior official in the Department as Special Coordinator.

The United States has long championed policies and programs that promote Tibetans' human rights, safeguard Tibetan culture, and strengthen the resilience of Tibetan communities. For decades, Congress has provided support for Tibetans to bolster local governance, strengthen the provision of health and other critical services to Tibetan refugees in South Asia, and ensure the free flow of information to the seven million Tibetans living in Tibet. Moving forward, we must continue to support Tibetans in their peaceful expression of their political and religious views.

The People's Republic of China (PRC) is employing a wide array of tools – including leveraging physical and digital infrastructure – to attempt to further persecute the Tibetan people and erode their unique religious, cultural, and linguistic traditions. Given the PRC's coercive behavior, it is critically important to appoint a qualified Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues as quickly as possible.

The Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-228) requires the appointment of a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues to promote substantive dialogue between the PRC and the Dalai Lama; advance the internationally recognized human rights of Tibetans; and promote activities to protect the water security of the Tibetan Plateau. The *Tibetan Policy and Support Act* – which you introduced as a Senator and which was signed into law via the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (P.L. 116-260) – reaffirmed and expanded the role and objectives of the Special Coordinator within the State Department. Achieving these objectives is more important now than ever, as the PRC is constructing a web of coercive architecture that can be used to pressure Tibetans around the world. From weaponizing water resources to transnational repression, property seizures, involuntary resettlement, arbitrary detentions, and forced education policies aimed at degrading the preservation of Tibetan language and culture, the PRC is aggressively expanding the means through which it systematically represses the Tibetan people.

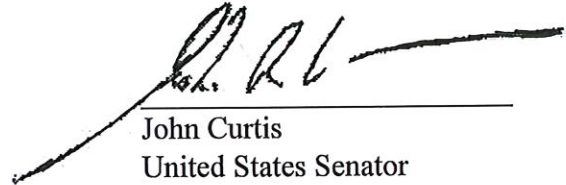
Since the first appointment of a Special Coordinator in 2001, this role and our support for Tibet has received strong, bipartisan support. As the PRC expands repressive policies across the Tibetan Plateau and increases propaganda, cyber, and physical attacks targeting the Tibetan diaspora, the United States must send a strong message that we will continue standing up for the

rights of the Tibetan people. We therefore urge you to appoint a qualified Special Coordinator as soon as possible to maintain U.S. leadership in the fight against PRC aggression. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



John Curtis
United States Senator