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## **U.S. REP. VOICES SUPPORT FOR TAIWAN; CALLS UPON THE IOC NOT TO POLITICIZE SPORTS**

In a letter dated August 13, Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-CO) accused the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) of failing to live up to the goals of the Olympic Movement which are: “to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practiced without discrimination of any kind....mutual understanding.....and fair play” as evidenced by the IOC's treatment of both the people and athletes from Taiwan.

The Congressman writes: “Since 1981 - as a result of pressure from the People's Republic of China - athletes from the ROC have been forced to compete under the name 「Chinese Taipei」, even though Taiwan functions as an independent nation, and is not subject to the control of the unelected government in Beijing.”

Rep. Tancredo concludes: “I hope you and the rest of the committee will consider revisiting this issue, and will choose to treat the ROC athletes with same dignity and respect afforded to their counterparts from other civilized nations.”

FAPA President Ming-chi Wu, Ph.D. states: “It is a sad disgrace that the IOC itself is unable to live up to its own Olympic motto. Sports is about fair play. The IOC bowing to Chinese pressure is compromising sports' universal spirit of fair play to political blackmail. Rep. Tancredo has taken this step to encourage the IOC to take a stand for justice for Taiwan's 23 million people who are not able to celebrate their nation's athletic achievements - all because of pressure from China. After all, sports should not be used as a political weapon.”

## 美眾議員聲援台灣，呼籲國際奧委會不要淪為政治工具

有鑑於近來中國一連串在國際場合上打壓台灣一事，美國眾議員唐克多(Tom Tancredo, R-CO)爲了聲援台灣，特於八月十三日致函國際奧委會主席，指責國際奧委會打壓台灣人民及運動選手的方式違背其創會宗旨—藉由體育活動來教導年輕人公平、公正、公開的理念，以期建立一個更和平與美好的世界。

該眾議員指出，台灣長年來皆未受過北京獨裁政府的統治，是一個主權獨立的國家，然而自 1981 年以來，卻因中國政府的百般打壓，而致使台灣選手被迫以中華台北的名義參賽。

眾議員唐克多並於信末結語中表示，「我希望主席您與所有的奧委會成員可以考慮重新檢視這個議題，並且選擇以如同對待其他國家同等的尊嚴且尊重的方式對待台灣選手。」

台灣人公共事務會吳明基會長指出，「國際奧委會無法恪守奧林匹克運動會的宗旨是件令人遺憾的事情。公平性向來爲體育活動的普世精神，而今國際奧委會卻臣服於中國的壓力，將此精神置若罔聞。在中國刻意的打壓下，台灣兩千三百萬人民無法與其他國家人民一樣，慶祝屬於他們的體育成就。即便在號稱無歧視的運動場上贏得了勝利，台灣人民也見不到自己國家的國旗可以如同別的國家般冉冉上昇。眾議員唐克多已率先針對此種不公平的現象採取行動，去函敦促國際奧委會用更符合正義原則的立場來對待台灣」。吳明基最後指出，「FAPA 希望此一議題能在國際社會間獲得更多的重視與迴響。畢竟，體育歸體育、政治歸政治，我們不該讓體育活動淪為政治打壓的工具。」