

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2005

Chairman Lien Chan
National Party, Kuomintang
11, Chung-Shan South Road, Taipei 100
Taiwan, Republic of China

Dear Chairman Lien:

As long-time friends and supporters of the Republic of China on Taiwan, we encourage you to help expedite the passage this month of the special defense budget now before the Legislative Yuan.

Submarines, P-3C anti-submarine aircraft, and additional Patriot air and missile defense systems (PAC-3) are vital to Taiwan's self-defense. Delaying the acquisition of these priority capabilities will make Taiwan increasingly vulnerable in the second half of this decade, a timeframe the Department of Defense and the Ministry of National Defense judge especially dangerous.

Our respective governments should ensure that Taiwan is able to deter and, if necessary, defeat aggression. That is why Members of Congress have supported the sale to Taiwan of submarines, anti-submarine aircraft, and missile defense systems since the 1990s. Congressional support for Taiwan's acquisition of priority capabilities has always been bipartisan in the United States.

The PRC's anti-secession law and aggressive military build-up demonstrate continued hostility towards the people of Taiwan. Taiwan's procurement of the defense systems provided for within the special budget is vital to maintaining peace and prosperity across the Strait.

Failure to pass the special budget has raised concerns in the United States about Taiwan's ability to defend itself against potential aggression. We encourage you to affirm your party's commitment to a strong defense force and a strong U.S.-Taiwan relationship by supporting these purchases in full and without further delay. We stand ready to help Taiwan defend itself, and look forward to continued cooperation between our governments.

All the best,





Jim Langevin

Jo Bradley

~~Jeff Blum~~

David Wu

Kendrick Meek

John Davis

Congressman Brown

Tom Taucredo

Spencer Hahn

Bob Goodenow

Madeline J. Kendall

Patrick O. Kennedy

John Franks

Ellen

Pete Sessions

Sue Kelly

~~John Carter~~

Ed Barr.

Shirley Brown

Dan R

~~Gregory W. White~~

Connie Mack

David Scott

Robin Hayes

Steve Isa

Pauline

AMMM

Phil Perry

Paul & Blanche

Mark Sander

Henry Hyde