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May 5, 2020

The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

As a co-chair of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I write to express my profound concerns regarding Communist China's secretive and damaging behavior relating to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic (hereinafter, "Wuhan Virus"), and to emphasize the sharp contrast in the exemplary response by the Republic of China (Taiwan) in acting magnanimously, transparently, and responsibly. Accordingly, I suggest that you consider leading the effort to increase Taiwan's global recognition and international participation, and to assess ways to strengthen its alliances with other countries throughout the world.

After the SARS outbreak of 2003, which also originated in Communist China, Taiwan learned to depend on its own data and analyses. As a result, although Taiwan is only 80 miles from Communist China, it suffered only six Wuhan Virus deaths and 429 total confirmed cases as of April 26, 2020 and no new cases as of April 27, 2020. With its own public health concerns under control, Taiwan launched its "Taiwan Can Help, Help for All" campaign. It has donated 16 million masks to other countries since April 1, 2020, including 3 million masks to the United States. Taiwan recently announced that private Taiwan citizens could donate their surgical masks to other countries through the National Health Insurance Administration mobile app.

The contrast between Communist China and Taiwan could not be more stark. When Communist China expelled journalists from the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Washington Post*, Taiwan's Foreign Minister Joseph Wu invited those U.S. journalists to reside in Taiwan. While Communist China was telling the world that there was no evidence of human-to-human transmission, and spreading misinformation through the World Health Organization (W.H.O.), Taiwan warned the W.H.O. of possible human-to-human transmission as early as December 31, 2020. While Communist China repeatedly refused to allow American physicians and experts from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to investigate the virus in Wuhan, Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen invited the W.H.O. director to visit Taiwan. Where Communist China operated in secrecy, Taiwan has remained transparent and open. Where Dr. Peter Navarro, Special Assistant to the President, stated that Communist China "vacuumed up" the world's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) just before the world would need it, Taiwan has donated

millions of pieces of PPE to countries that need it most. Communist China has bullied its way to a seat at the international table; Taiwan has earned a seat. As the past few months have revealed, not only Taiwan that is harmed by its exclusion, but the international community has suffered as a result of Taiwan's exclusion as well. Had Taiwan been welcomed into the W.H.O. and an integral member of the international community, the world could have been alerted to the reality of the Wuhan Virus much earlier.

I wholeheartedly support the Trump Administration's commitment to holding Communist China accountable for its role in failing to alert the world to the Wuhan Virus, and for its efforts to bring critical supply chains back into the United States. I also commend President Trump for the timely signing of the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019 (P.L. 116-135), which I cosponsored, into law on March 26, 2020. Accordingly, within all applicable rules and regulations, I suggest that, in addition to becoming independent from reliance on Communist China, the United States and the international community could benefit markedly from Taiwan's inclusion in diplomacy, international organizations, and multilateral decision-making to the greatest extent possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end, positioned over the printed name and title.

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress