

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 10, 2019

Attorney General of the United States William Barr
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary of State Michael Pompeo
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Attorney General Barr and Secretary of State Pompeo:

On March 18, 2016, the President signed into law a bill aimed at enabling Taiwan to gain observer status in the International Criminal Police Organization, commonly known as Interpol. The bill thereby became Public Law No. 114-139. This Act directed the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan, and instructed Interpol Washington—which is co-managed by the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security—to request observer status for Taiwan in Interpol and to urge Interpol member states to support observer status and participation for Taiwan.

Lack of Interpol membership prevents Taiwan from gaining access to Interpol's I-24/7 global police communications system, which provides real-time information on criminals and global criminal activities. Taiwan is now forced to get second-hand information from friendly nations, including the United States. Taiwan is unable to swiftly share information on criminals and suspicious activity with the international community, leaving a huge void in global crime-fighting efforts and leaving the entire world at higher risk.

With this in mind, we request that you provide a response to the following questions:

- 1) Will the Department of Justice and the Department of State meet and cooperate with Interpol Washington, and with representatives of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States, to develop a full understanding of the ways that the Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB), if integrated into the Interpol system, can assist in the global fight against crime, and to draft an agreement that reflects CIB's capabilities as a starting point for negotiations with Interpol?

- 2) Will you instruct the representative of the United States on Interpol's Executive Committee to use their voice and vote to present this draft agreement at the meeting of the Executive Committee prior to the next meeting of the Interpol General Assembly, and to support the negotiation of the cooperation agreement the draft describes in the Executive Committee?
- 3) Additionally, in advance of the Executive Committee meeting, will the Department of State, with the support of Interpol Washington, approach other Interpol member nations, with special emphasis on those with representatives on the Committee, to secure their support for the draft agreement?

In these conversations, we hope that U.S. representatives will emphasize that this is an effort to find a constructive, positive solution to the inability of a major economy and population center to play a serious and genuine role in the global fight against crime. We believe this approach offers a way to reconcile the interests of all parties, and that it is the most practical way to fulfill the intent of Public Law No. 114-139, without further legislative action on the part of Congress.

Sincerely,



John Curtis



Michael T. McCaul



Brad Sherman



Ted S. Yoho, DVM



Chris Smith



James P. McGovern



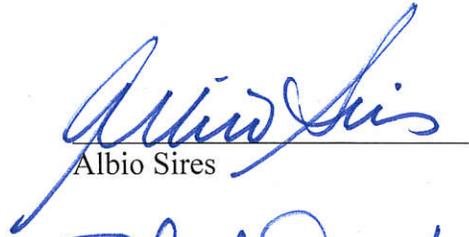
Steve Chabot



Gerald E. Connolly



Mario Diaz-Balart



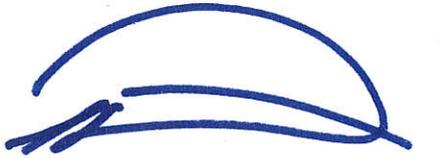
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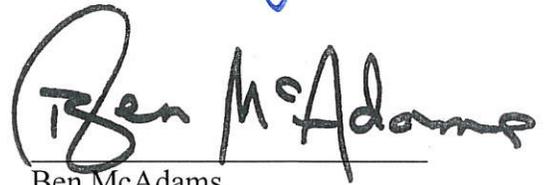
Adam Kinzinger



Sheila Jackson Lee



Scott DesJarlais



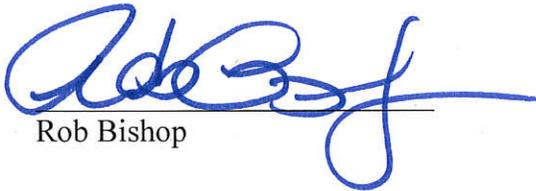
Ben McAdams



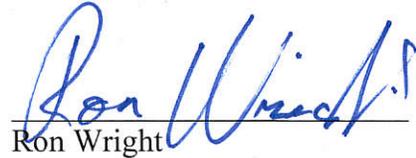
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James R. Langevin



Rob Bishop



Ron Wright



Vicente Gonzalez



Don Bacon



Thomas Suozzi



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.



Pete Olson



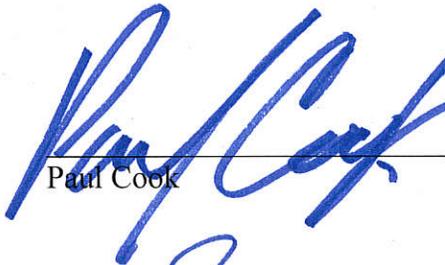
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Bill Flores

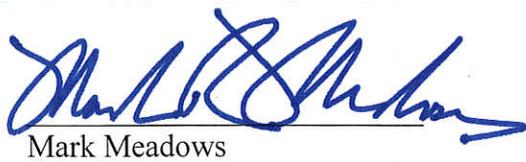

Bill Foster


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David Schweikert



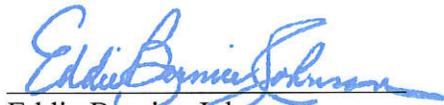
Steve King



Joe Wilson



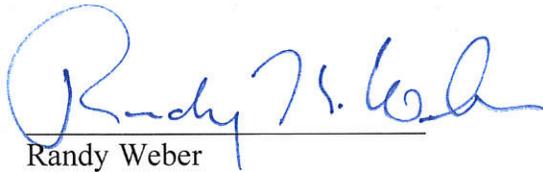
Michael Guest



Eddie Bernice Johnson



Chuck Fleischmann



Randy Weber