

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor  
State of California  
1303 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, California 95814

October 20, 2023

Dear Governor Newsom,

We write you to express concerns regarding your upcoming trip to the People's Republic of China (PRC).

On Monday, October 16th, you told reporters, "The trip is wholly focused on climate, and we are obviously a state, so I think we look to our federal partners on federal issues." Federalism should not serve as an excuse for you to avoid having difficult conversations about the Communist Chinese Party's (CCP) gross violations of human rights and documented genocide of ethnic minorities. Furthermore, your trip should also serve as an opportunity to demand that CCP officials take action to prevent PRC-sourced fentanyl precursors from entering the U.S. In just three years, between 2019 and 2021, California's opioid-related deaths spiked 121% according to California's health department due in large part to the prevalence of fentanyl in our communities.

According to your press release, you will be traveling to Hong Kong to have a conversation that "will focus on shared efforts to combat climate change while fostering strong economic growth." As you know, the CCP has long waged a successful malign influence campaign that has corroded democratic institutions and the judicial system in Hong Kong. While you are having conversations with officials about "fostering strong economic growth", you should keep in mind that near you there will be reporters and activists being tried for violations of Hong Kong's national security law, which criminalized speaking out against the CCP and its ideology.

We are also aware that you will have engagements with high level CCP officials in Beijing to sign MOUs on climate cooperation between California and the CCP. We believe that it would be an affront to California if you engage with these officials and fail to raise issues such as the genocide of minorities in Xinjiang and Tibet, transnational repression of dissidents, and other gross violations of human rights. In Xinjiang, the CCP is subjecting Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities to forced political indoctrination, torture, beatings, rape, forced sterilization, and food deprivation. In Tibet, the CCP is forcibly disappearing dissidents, suppressing religion, and

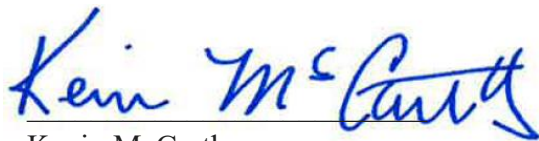
enforcing draconian laws to control the Tibetan people and try to erase their culture.

The CCP is getting more brazen in its violations of human rights and aggression towards democratic partners and allies in the Indo- Pacific. Additionally, the CCP refuses to cooperate with the U.S. on the fentanyl crisis. For you to turn a blind eye and not raise how the opioid epidemic is impacting the state of California would be a disservice and a slap on the face for the thousands of families that have lost their loved ones due to a fentanyl overdose. These issues are too pressing for you to overlook as they deeply impact our constituents. Given your refusal to discuss human rights and the fentanyl crisis with the CCP, we do not see how this trip will benefit Californians. We call on you to cancel your trip.

Sincerely,



Young Kim  
Member of Congress



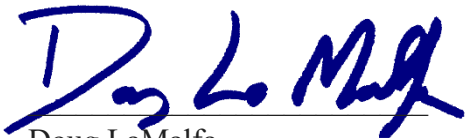
Kevin McCarthy  
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress



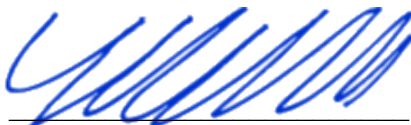
Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress



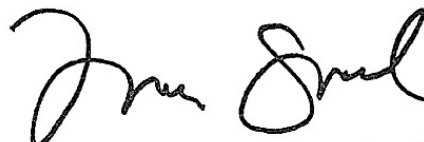
Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



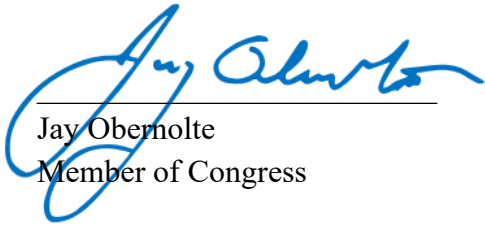
David Valadao  
Member of Congress



Mike Garcia  
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel  
Member of Congress




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Jay Oberholte  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Kiley  
Member of Congress



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John Duarte  
Member of Congress