

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 12, 2026

Han Kuo-yu
Speaker
Legislative Yuan
No. 1
Zhongshan South Rd.
Zhongshan District
Taipei City 100220, Taiwan

Huang Kuo-chang
Chair
Taiwan People's Party
B1 Area, 3F, No. 261, Sec. 3
Nanjing E. Rd.
Songshan District
Taipei City 105405, Taiwan

Cheng Li-wun
Chair
Kuomintang
No. 232-243, Sec. 2
Blade Rd.
Zhongzheng District
Taipei City 104100, Taiwan

Ker Chien-ming
Caucus Whip
Democratic Progressive Party
No. 1
Zhongshan South Rd.
Zhongshan District
Taipei City 100220, Taiwan

Dear Speaker Han Kuo-yu, Chair Cheng Li-wun, Chair Huang Kuo-chang, and Caucus Whip Ker Chien-ming,

As friends of Taiwan, we write to express our concerns with ongoing deliberations in the Legislative Yuan to only partially fund a supplementary budget request to enhance Taiwan's defensive capabilities.

The United States shares a strong and enduring partnership with the people of Taiwan. It is built upon shared democratic values, close economic ties, and a mutual dedication to Indo-Pacific peace and stability. Since passage of the Taiwan Relations Act, the United States has remained committed to Taiwan's security and ability to defend itself against coercion. This has been demonstrated through sustained security cooperation, including expanded training, enhanced interoperability, and arms sales.

However, the threat posed by the People's Republic of China (PRC) against Taiwan has never been greater. Xi Jinping is focusing every element of the PRC's national power to control Taiwan. Xi hopes to achieve this through illegal, coercive, aggressive, and deceptive actions that undermine Taiwan's will to resist. These measures include regularly operating inside Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone, increasing incursions across the median line, harassing fishing vessels, and cutting undersea cables. At the same time, Xi remains willing to use military force to achieve his goal. As evidence of this, large-scale People's Liberation Army exercises in October 2024, April 2025, and December 2025 demonstrated its growing preparations for a blockade or invasion.

In response to this worsening threat environment, both the United States and Taiwan must do more to deter PRC aggression. For our part, the U.S. must address the massive backlog in weapons deliveries to Taiwan. You have our commitment to continue to work together to ensure Taiwan gets the capabilities it needs, faster. Likewise, we need Taiwan to step up with us. We commend Taiwan for making important progress in strengthening its military readiness, reserve forces, and asymmetric defense capabilities. Nevertheless, we fear that without significant increases in Taiwan's defense spending at levels reflected in President Lai's proposed special budget, this progress will be insufficient.

We understand the complexities that surround government funding debates. Legislators must represent the will of our constituents and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent effectively. However, we also have the responsibility to fund our militaries at levels that address the critical threats we face. As such, we hope you will support a robust, multi-year special defense budget, as well as annual funding at levels that adequately meet the moment and send a clear signal of Taiwan's will to defend itself.

Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to Taiwan's democratic system and long-term security. We look forward to continued cooperation between our legislatures and our peoples.

Sincerely,



Pete Ricketts
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



James E. Risch
United States Senator
Chairman, Committee on Foreign
Relations



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Jim Banks
U.S. Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



Aumua Amata Radewagen
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



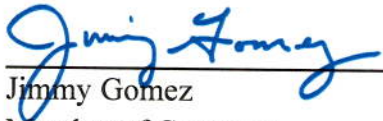
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Anna Paulina Luna
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Addison P. McDowell
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Mark Alford
Member of Congress



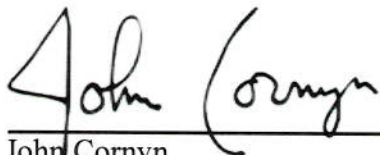
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Eric S. Schmitt
United States Senator



Tom Cotton
United States Senator

CC: KMT Caucus Whip Fu Kun-chi
TPP Caucus Whip Chen Chin-lung