

SHERROD BROWN
OHIO

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 21, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

In less than two months, the people of Taiwan will hold national elections. This will be the fifth presidential election since the country became a full-fledged democracy. It is critical that our government continue to refrain from endorsing a particular political candidate or party.

Taiwan's contested, close, and comprehensive elections signify its successful transition to democracy. Just a generation ago, Taiwan was a police state under martial law. Now, the Taiwanese are a model for people everywhere who seek to live in freedom, and who aspire to peacefully transition to a democratic government.

The State Department has been clear about the U.S. position regarding Taiwan's elections. On September 15, 2011, State spokesperson Mark Toner stated, "I can just assure you that we strongly support Taiwan's democracy and the will of the Taiwanese people to choose their leaders in the upcoming election. Our only interest is in a free, fair, and open presidential election. We don't take any sides."

As members of the Administration continue to visit our close ally and fellow democracy, I ask that you work to ensure that our government does not actively or inadvertently influence the outcome of the upcoming Taiwanese elections.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator