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Secretary Hillary Clinton
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

December 21, 2011

Dear Secretary Clinton:

I write to you today about presidential and legislative elections that are set to take place in Taiwan on January 14, 2012. As I am sure you are aware, this will be only the fifth direct presidential election in that country's history.

Since Taiwan's peaceful transition from authoritarianism to liberal democracy less than two decades ago, the United States has supported the right of the Taiwanese people to freely elect their leaders. In keeping with our own founding principles of freedom and democracy, I urge the Administration to refrain from speaking or acting in any way that might be construed as favoring any one candidate over the others in the closely-fought electoral campaign currently playing out in Taiwan.

Moreover, as we continue to keep a close watch on the developments in Taiwan, the United States must also remain vigilant for possible attempts by the People's Republic of China to either undermine the integrity of the electoral process in Taiwan—whether by military or other means—or to interfere with the transfer of power after the election if the opposition party is victorious on January 14. We must send a strong signal that the U.S. is committed to seeing that Taiwan's elections are free, fair, and transparent, and that the results are respected by all sides within Taiwan and by all of its neighbors.

Taiwan today is a free and independent country that stands as a model for other nations still aspiring to the basic rights and liberties that its citizens now enjoy. The democratic spirit of the Taiwanese people persists in spite of the overwhelming military threat that the People's Republic of China that has wielded over it for years, and the United States must do what is within its power to help preserve these hard-won freedoms.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to working with you to continue strengthening our cooperation with the people of Taiwan in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress