



# TIBET LOBBY DAY

March 2024 | Washington, DC

## 2024 Lobby Day Letter to Congress (SENATE)

Tibetan-Americans and friends of Tibet call on the US Congress to build on its bipartisan leadership in supporting the aspirations of the Tibetan people for a better future. We are thankful for your decades-long commitment to providing programmatic and political support for the Tibetan people both in Tibet and in exile.

This year, there is a special impetus for Congress, as it marks the 65th anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising as well as of the Dalai Lama's escape from Tibet in the face of the Chinese Communist Party's military aggression. Specifically, the Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Dispute Act (H.R.533/S.138) introduced by Representatives Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Michael McCaul (R-TX) and Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Todd Young (R-IN) is now pending in the Senate after passing the House with overwhelming bipartisan support.

As well, Rep. Jim McGovern is seeking original cosponsors for a resolution condemning China's decades of oppression, including the ongoing suppression of Tibetans in eastern Tibet protesting a hydropower project that will displace many from their ancestral homes and destroy ancient monasteries and other religious artifacts from the 13th Century.

### THE ASK

**CO-SPONSOR The Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Dispute Act (H.R.533/S.138)** which clarifies US Tibet policy and establishes a clear, consistent message that the United States does not consider the Tibet matter resolved, the only path forward is meaningful dialogue, combats disinformation, and declares that the United States' support for Tibet will never waiver.

What the bill does:

- Makes it official US policy that the dispute between Tibet and China must be resolved in accordance with international law, through dialogue without preconditions.
- Clarifies that America will back the Tibetan people until negotiations are settled, whether it is with the 14th Dalai Lama or a future Tibetan leader. This is essential to providing the Tibetan people the long-term support needed in their quest for dignity and self-determination.
- Rejects as "inaccurate" China's claim that Tibet has been part of China since "ancient times."

- Mandates that the Office of the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues actively counter Communist Party disinformation about Tibet and the Tibetan people.
- Makes clear that Tibet includes not only the so-called “Tibet Autonomous Region” of China but also Tibetan areas that are incorporated in Gansu, Sichuan, Qinghai and Yunnan provinces.

## THE SITUATION IS URGENT

The Resolve Tibet Act (H.R.533/S.138) comes at a critical juncture in the Tibet-China dispute. In Tibet under Chinese rule the State Department has documented unlawful and arbitrary killings; disappearances; torture and cases of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment by the government; arbitrary arrest or detention; political prisoners; transnational repression; serious restrictions on freedom of expression and media, including censorship; forced separation of children from their families threatens to uproot children from their mother tongue; and the inability of citizens to change their government peacefully through free and fair elections. Unabated, these human rights violations aim to erase the Tibetan civilization.

The contact to join the Resolve Tibet Act (S.138) is Ausan Al-Eryani, in Senator Merkley’s office at [Ausan\\_Al-Eryani@merkley.senate.gov](mailto:Ausan_Al-Eryani@merkley.senate.gov).

Thank you in advance for your support.

