



# TIBET LOBBY DAY

March 2024 | Washington, DC

## Tibet Lobby Day Summary

This year we will focus on two “asks”. For the Senate, co-sponsor the Resolve Tibet Act (H.R.533/S.138), introduced by Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA), and Rep. Michael McCaul, (R-TX) in the House, and Senators Todd Young (R-IN) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) in the Senate. The bill recently passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support. In the House, the ask is to join as a co-sponsor a Resolution Reps. Jim McGovern and Young Kim are currently introducing which commemorates the 65th anniversary of the Dalai Lama’s escape into exile and condemns Beijing’s crackdown of ongoing protests against a hydroelectric dam project which would destroy monasteries and religious artifacts. A copy of the legislation and accompanying factsheets are in your materials packet.

### WHAT THE RESOLVE TIBET ACT DOES

- Makes it official US policy that the dispute between Tibet and China must be resolved unconditionally in accordance with international law.
- 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.
- Faults China for failing to meet expectations of participating in dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives.
- Rejects as “inaccurate” China’s claim that Tibet has been part of China since ancient times.
- Empowers the Office of the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues to counter Communist Party disinformation about Tibet.
- 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.

## ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS

### Dialogue:

- The United States supports negotiation as the path to a lasting, peaceful resolution to the China-Tibet Conflict.
- More than a decade has passed since the last round of negotiations. The Resolve Tibet Act clarifies a consistent policy that dialogue is the only path forward.

**Lack of Legitimacy:** The Chinese Communist Party’s rule in Tibet has no legitimate historical, diplomatic, or popular basis.

- **Historical:** As a people, Tibetans have maintained a distinct ethnicity, nationality, religion, culture, and religious identity for over 2,000 years. It has never been “part of China”.
- **Diplomatic:** The People’s Republic of China’s rule of Tibet is based exclusively on its violent military annexation. International law is clear that acquiring territory by force is illegal. The United States also has long agreed with this.
- **Popular:** Tibetans resist Chinese occupation to this day, utilizing whatever peaceful means are available to express opposition to both Chinese rule and China’s relentless agenda to erase Tibetan ancient and unique civilization.

**Urgency:** Under the Xi Jinping regime the suffering of the Tibetan people has only worsened.

- Action must be taken and a first, crucial step is to rekindle negotiations. As an international leader, the United States must speak with one voice that the situation is not resolved despite what the Chinese propaganda machine claim.
- It is also important that the PRC’s pervasive, global disinformation efforts be actively countered. Only truth can combat the lies PRC spends so many resources sewing.

