



**One Hundred Seventeenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

February 22, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

I write you to urge the boycott of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics. The United States must stand up and defend its commitment to human rights and the rule of law that this country was founded upon and act immediately to curb “the systematic attempt to destroy Uyghurs by the Chinese party-state.”¹ The actions taken by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) are antithetical to the values of both the United States and its allies around the world. Participation in an Olympics held in a country that is openly committing genocide not only undermines those shared values but casts a shadow on the promise for all those who seek free and just societies.

In January of 2021, the Department of State issued a determination stating that “...since at least March 2017, local authorities dramatically escalated their decades-long campaign of repression against Uyghur Muslims and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups [...]”² This document, which goes on to detail an exhaustive investigation, cites a number of ongoing and heinous crimes being prosecuted upon the Uyghur minority to include: “The arbitrary imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty of more than one million civilians, forced sterilization, torture of a large number of those arbitrarily detained, forced labor, the imposition of draconian restrictions on freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression and restriction on freedom of movement.”³ Secretary of State Blinken has further highlighted the severity of the situation the Uyghurs face during his confirmation hearing stating “[...] the forcing of men, women and children into concentration camps, trying to, in effect, re-educate them to be adherents to the ideology of the Chinese Communist Party, all of that speaks to an effort to commit genocide.”⁴

Separately, the prior administration took the momentous step of issuing a region-wide Withhold Release Order on goods coming from Xianjaing Province, an action that clearly signaled to the global business community and world leaders that the United States would not underwrite the use

¹ <https://2017-2021.state.gov/determination-of-the-secretary-of-state-on-atrocities-in-xinjiang//index.html>

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/011921_Blinken_Testimony.pdf

of forced labor in any good imported into the United States. The order was the fourth such action taken by the Department of Homeland Security following the joint publication of the “Xinjiang Supply Chain Business Advisory” which highlighted, amongst other alarming things, that “[...] the PRC government has been using discriminatory immigration policies to cancel the passports of and lure diasporic Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, and ethnic Kyrgyz individuals back to China and intern them” and that “[...]the PRC government has facilitated the mass transfer of Uyghurs and others from Xinjiang to factories across China, including under conditions of forced or involuntary labor.”³

Mr. President, the evidence is clear - the CCP is deliberately and systematically working to eliminate an entire population within its own borders. In doing so, it expects the rest of the world to be silent and, in the case of business operations and global supply chains, complicit in these actions. The United States simply cannot in good faith participate in an Olympic Games in a country that is committing genocide and continuously attempts to manipulate and lie to the global community about such atrocities. Before the eyes of the world descend upon China in 2022, I urge you to take action by working with our partners and allies to lead the free nations of the planet in a unified movement to hold this honored contest amongst nations in a country that actually lives up to the values of the Olympic Charter, “[...]to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity.”

Sincerely,



JOHN KATKO
Ranking Member

CC:

NSA Sullivan
Secretary Blinken
Secretary Mayorkas
International Olympic Committee

³https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Xinjiang-Supply-Chain-Business-Advisory_FINAL_For-508-508.pdf