



June 16, 2026

Dear Governor Hobbs:

We are writing to help facilitate your state's cooperation and engagement with Taiwan. The Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, and Department of State regularly receive questions about how U.S. state and local governments can conduct outreach to Taiwan. Through this letter, we aim to explain how expanding your state's relationship with Taiwan on trade, education, investment, tourism, and many other areas is fully compatible with, and supports, U.S. policy and can be beneficial to your state.

Consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act, the United States maintains a robust unofficial relationship with Taiwan while also maintaining diplomatic relations with China. Taiwan plays a key role in the international trading system, and U.S. states and businesses have had robust ties with Taiwan for many decades. Taiwan is the United States' fourth-largest trading partner and seventh-largest market for agricultural exports. It is also the seventh-largest source of international students in the United States, and the first per capita. In January, Taiwan pledged \$250 billion in direct investment and \$250 billion in credit guarantees in a historic trade and investment deal that will strengthen U.S. economic growth, create high-paying jobs, and bolster national security. Visitors from Taiwan are eligible for visa-free travel to the United States through the Visa Waiver Program and may apply to participate in the Global Entry program for streamlined arrivals at U.S. airports.

State and local governments are well-positioned to deepen U.S. economic and cultural ties with Taiwan in ways that benefit their residents. We also encourage engagement with Taiwan on its core policy priority of increasing whole-of-society resilience to disasters and emergency situations, as state and local governments have unique expertise in disaster preparedness and strengthening critical infrastructure systems.

China's embassy and consulates regularly contact local government offices to discourage engagement with Taiwan. In doing so, they often mischaracterize U.S.

policy by, for example, falsely claiming that Washington has previously accepted Beijing's specific position on Taiwan. Should your office be contacted by Chinese officials applying pressure, or if you have any questions, we encourage you to contact the Department of State, which stands ready to help state and local governments navigate questions of nomenclature and protocol.

We have enclosed information that further explains the U.S.-Taiwan unofficial relationship, and provides contact information for the Department of State's office that oversees policy engagement with Taiwan and for the American Institute in Taiwan, the non-profit corporation that carries out the U.S. unofficial relationship with Taiwan pursuant to the Taiwan Relations Act.

Taiwan is a vital U.S. partner and democratic success story. We hope you will take advantage of all the opportunities that our shared values and robust relationship with Taiwan offer.

Sincerely,



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