August 1, 2011

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our concerns about the military imbalance in the Taiwan Strait. In order to maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, we believe it is critical for the United States to sell the government of Taiwan all the F-16 C/D it requires. We respectfully request that your administration move quickly to announce its support for such a sale and submit the required Congressional Notification for a sale as soon as possible.

Successive reports issued by U.S. and Taiwanese defense authorities outline the threat Taiwan continues to face, including the continued military buildup by the People’s Republic of China. For example, Beijing has more than 1,400 missiles aimed at Taiwan and continues to add to this total. China is forging ahead and deploying next generation military technology. Military experts both in Taiwan and in the United States have raised alarms that Taiwan is losing its qualitative advantage in defensive arms that have long served as a primary military deterrent.

Due to impending changes within Taiwan’s force structure, we respectfully urge a timely resolution to the aircraft sale issue. Within the next decade Taiwan will retire 70% of its fighter force and without new fighter aircraft and upgrades to its existing fleet of F-16s, Taiwan’s situation could become quite precarious.

As you know, the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (TRA) states that it is U.S. policy “to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means...of grave concern to the United States.” We remain deeply concerned that delays in the decision on the sale of F-16s to Taiwan and subsequently notifying Congress of their sale could very well result in closure of the F-16 assembly line. In addition to enhancing Taiwan’s security, approval of the sale would support thousands of American jobs—especially well-paying jobs in the manufacturing sector.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

SHELLEY BERKLEY
Member of Congress

PHIL GINGREY, M.D.
Member of Congress

GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress

MARIO DIAZ-BALART
Member of Congress
ANDY HARRIS, M.D.
Member of Congress

ALCIEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress

JOSEPH J. HECK
Member of Congress

BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress

MAURICE D. HINCHLEY
Member of Congress

STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress

BILL JOHNSON
Member of Congress

WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress

VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress

NAN. A. S. HAYWORTH, M.D.
Member of Congress

MARTIN HEINRICH
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JAMES A. HIMES
Member of Congress

TIM HOLDEN
Member of Congress

DARRELL E. ISSA
Member of Congress

WALTER B. JONES
Member of Congress

STEVE KING
Member of Congress
STEVEN R. ROTHMAN
Member of Congress

TIM RYAN
Member of Congress

LORETTA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress

JEAN SCHMIDT
Member of Congress

AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
Member of Congress

HEATH SHULER
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ALBIO SIRES
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JOX RUNYAN
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LINDA T. SANCHEZ
Member of Congress

ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress

DAVID SCHWEIKERT
Member of Congress

DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress

PETE SESSIONS
Member of Congress

MICHAEL K. SIMPSON
Member of Congress

STEVE SOUTHERLAND
Member of Congress
ROBERT ADERHOLT
Member of Congress