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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND  
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COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND  
TRANSPORTATION

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Honorable Jason C. Yuan  
Representative  
Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States  
4201 Wisconsin Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Ambassador Yuan,

I am writing to express my deep concern with the potential actions by the Taiwanese Legislative Yuan to bar some U.S. beef from entering Taiwan. As you know, the proposed amendment to Taiwan's Food Sanitation Act and related proposals would prevent some types of U.S. beef from being exported to Taiwan, in apparent violation of the good-faith bilateral agreement reached last October.

Our government has spent years developing and implementing a multilayered system of interlocking safeguards to provide for the safety of American beef. As you know, it is because of these efforts that the United States has been classified for years as a controlled risk country for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). The guidelines on this classification level indicate that U.S. beef, including older and bone-in beef, is completely safe for export and consumption, regardless of age.

I strongly urge Taiwanese officials to rely on science-based, international standards when making trade decisions. I would also ask you to communicate my concerns to the appropriate representatives in the Legislative Yuan. This is a distinct opportunity for the Taiwanese government to show that it stands resolute in the fair treatment of its trading partners. Both of our countries benefit from setting protocol consistent with the OIE's science-based guidelines.

During my time in public office, I have greatly enjoyed working with Taiwanese representatives and visiting Taiwan. Over the course of the last year, I have particularly appreciated working with you on the issue of beef trade. However, this potential change to Taiwanese beef import regulations stands in stark contrast to the agreement reached last Fall, and would hinder years of effort to reach agreement to further open markets.

I urge you again to ensure that any proposed change to the current beef regulations would be based in science, and should reflect our countries' long history of friendship and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Mike Johannis  
United States Senator

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