

STEVE DAINES
MONTANA

320 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-2651

United States Senate

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February 12, 2018

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson:

I write to urge you to appoint a qualified nominee to serve as the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues at the rank of Under Secretary of State in a prompt manner. As you know, this position is currently vacant and ensuring that the United States has an effective leader who is able to focus on the range of issues facing Tibet, whether they be related to religious freedom, human rights, environmental issues, or encouraging dialogue between the Dalai Lama and the People's Republic of China, is of utmost importance.

I was able to witness many of these longstanding concerns facing the Tibetan people and the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) firsthand when I led a congressional delegation to the TAR last year. While the delegation raised these issues with TAR government officials, it was readily apparent that having a dedicated U.S. official dedicated to Tibetan issues is necessary to adequately monitor developments in the TAR.

With that in mind, I request that you appoint a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues as quickly as possible to ensure the U.S. has a strong voice and can effectively raise the concerns of the Tibetan people. I look forward to continuing to work with you on this important issue, as well as advancing U.S.-China relations and promoting U.S. interests more broadly.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator