



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, CHAIR  
SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY, COCHAIR

April 14, 2023

The Honorable Xi Jinping, President  
The People's Republic of China  
Via: Xu Xueyuan, Chargé d'Affaires  
The Embassy of the People's Republic of China  
3505 International Place, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. President:

In light of Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning's remarks on March 27, 2023, that "the door to Xinjiang is always open," and that people from all countries are "welcome to visit," I write in my capacity as the Chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) to request a visa in order to visit the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) of the People's Republic of China.

On April 3, 2023, the Chinese Embassy's Minister-Counselor for Congressional Affairs in Washington, Zhou Zheng, stated that "China fully protects the rights and interests of all ethnic minorities including Uyghurs in Xinjiang, and the living standards and human rights protections of all ethnic groups continue to improve."

This is of great interest to the Commission, which is a bicameral, bi-branch, bipartisan organization, established by the United States Congress to monitor China's compliance with international human rights standards. For several years, the Commission has published and maintained a database of victims of human rights abuses and has encouraged the development of the rule of law in the PRC.

The Foreign Minister's open invitation is a welcomed opportunity for the CECC, and others, to personally assess Mr. Zhou's comments against the veracity of reports of mass internment and forced labor in the XUAR. Having found those multiple reports to be credible, I would like to visit sites where mass detention and forced labor are generally believed to occur.

Additionally, there are a number of American citizens, permanent residents and others who have been detained due to their apparent ties with the United States whom I would like to visit.

I would also request that the Staff Director of the CECC, Piero A. Tozzi, Esq., also be granted a visa in order to accompany me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Chairman

Congressional-Executive Commission on China