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April 12, 2019

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

As you are well aware, China's increased influence in East Asia is continuing to push the envelope of democracy. Now more than ever, the United States' presence is needed in the Indo-Pacific theater to show our regional partners and allies the significance of U.S./East Asia commitment. I strongly urge you to attend the upcoming East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Thailand to further demonstrate America's engagement.

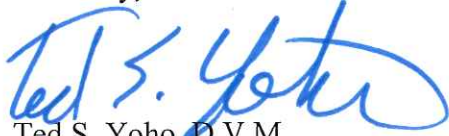
The EAS is an annual forum during which ASEAN countries and other regional players like Russia and the United States come together to discuss initiatives that promote peace and stability in East Asia. Nations in the Indo-Pacific play a vital role in the international community and it is imperative that the United States participates in forums such as the EAS to engage in dialogue and offer support to our allies in the Indo-Pacific. Your attendance would reaffirm the United States' commitment to the defending the security of this vital region.

As you know, Congress and the Trump Administration have tailored the United States' foreign policies to counter China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region. Legislation like the BUILD Act, which the Trump Administration signed into law in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, will help facilitate these goals. We have worked to reinforce an environment conducive to democratic ideals and free market economic growth.

The Trump Administration has done a remarkable job of illustrating leadership by enforcing policies and *by being present*. Your absence at the EAS would hinder important progress the Trump Administration has made in countering China's political and economic influence, as was highlighted by multiple Foreign Ministers that have visited my office in the past few weeks. Without U.S. representation, other major players, namely China and Russia, will fill the political void. We must not give our adversaries opportunities to assert themselves in important dialogues, like the EAS.

Once again, I urge you to attend the upcoming East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting to represent and defend the United States' interests in the Indo-Pacific.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ted S. Yoho". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ted" and last name "Yoho" clearly legible.

Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and  
Nonproliferation