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One Hundred Twelfth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
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April 30, 2012

Ms. Debra L. Bowen
Secretary of State
The State of California
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5701

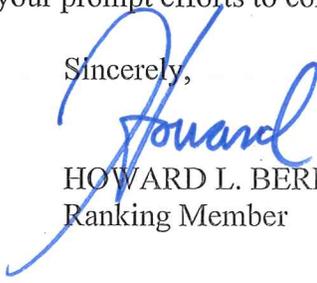

Dear Secretary Bowen,

I am writing to express my concern regarding a voter registration issue and the use of the name "Taiwan". It has recently come to my attention that when California residents attempt to register to vote online, they are unable to enter their country of birth as "Taiwan" because the menu selection in the voter registration system does not allow for such an option. Instead, the system refers to Taiwan as "Taiwan, Province of China."

It has been long-standing U.S. policy that the U.S. government refers to Taiwan as "Taiwan." Federal and quasi-federal agencies such as Amtrak, the U.S. Postal Service, and the U.S. State Department, all refer to Taiwan simply as "Taiwan." I would respectfully request that your office, as a government agency, adopt the same terminology in reference to Taiwan

With the May 15 registration deadline quickly approaching for California voters, Taiwan-born U.S. citizens in California will be unable to register to vote without signing their name under an inaccurate statement in an official government document. I appreciate your timely consideration of this matter and for your prompt efforts to correct this error.

Sincerely,


HOWARD L. BERMAN
Ranking Member