

ALCEE L. HASTINGS
20TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON RULES
VICE-CHAIRMAN

UNITED STATES
HELSINKI COMMISSION
CHAIRMAN

FLORIDA DELEGATION
CO-CHAIRMAN

SENIOR DEMOCRATIC WHIP



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0920

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

2353 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515-0923
Telephone: (202) 225-1313
Fax: (202) 225-1171

5701 NW 88th Avenue
Suite 200
Tamarac, FL 33321
Telephone: (954) 733-2800
Fax: (954) 722-9399

West Palm Beach
5725 Corporate Way
Suite 208
West Palm Beach, FL 33407
P: (561) 461-6767
F: (954) 722-9399

www.alceehastings.house.gov

June 9, 2020

The Honorable Li Zhanshu
Chairman
Standing Committee of The National People's Congress
The Great Hall of the People
Renda Huitang West Road
Xicheng District, China 100031

Via electronic correspondence.

Dear Chairman Li:

First of all, I thank you for your leadership in shutting down China's live wildlife markets and trade in wild animals for human consumption as food on February 24 as part of the Chinese government's actions to contain the Covid-19 pandemic and to eliminate a source of epidemic outbreaks in the future. I urge you to make this trade and consumption ban permanent and move to ban other types of intensive wildlife production for fur, medicine, display, pets, and laboratory use, systems that could also be breeding grounds for pandemics.

I write to express my deep concern as well for the animals horribly mistreated in the trade of dog and cat meat, in addition to the public health implications of this practice, and respectfully urge you to end the dog and cat meat trade across China.

As you may know, I, alongside a bipartisan group of colleagues, championed the inclusion of an enacted federal prohibition on the domestic dog and cat meat trade and consumption across the United States in the *Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018*. Additionally, I have introduced H.Con.Res.71, a bicameral resolution calling on all nations to join the U.S. in ending the consumption and trade of dog and cat meat and to adopt and enforce laws banning this trade.

I understand that your government has well-established laws regulating animal disease control, food safety, trans-provincial dog transport, and youth protection, all of which are violated by the dog and cat meat trade, live animal markets, and by many of those taking part in the infamous Yulin Dog Meat Festival. I urge you and the entire government to build on these

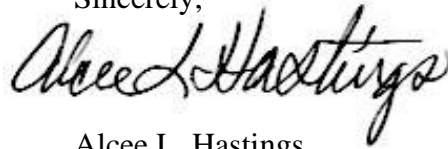
laws in order to adopt and implement full bans on live animal markets across China. Uniform enforcement of these laws would provide a foundation to address the abuse and health concerns that are associated with dog and cat meat markets and consumption.

I applaud the efforts of your government and the millions of Chinese citizens who are opposed to the dog and cat meat trade more generally. I commend the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs for its public statement declaring dogs as companion animals, not livestock. I also want to applaud the cities of Shenzhen and Zhuhai for adopting local laws that impose a ban on wildlife, dog, and cat meat consumption. Additionally, the city of Yulin has worked to address the growing domestic and international concern about the infamous festival with some success, but I know that your leadership in the People's National Congress in concert with President Xi Jinping can guide cities across China to institute and enforce the necessary laws to end the dog and cat meat trade.

In order to protect public health and fully address the current COVID-19 outbreak, we must take swift and decisive action. I fully understand that live animal markets and dog and cat meat consumption are not widespread practices, are not endorsed by your government, and that your government has sound and well-established laws to prosecute those who continue to put public health at risk on a global scale. It is my hope that you will lead a national legislative effort, joining the growing movement in China, and indeed, across the globe, to eliminate the dog and cat meat trade as swiftly as possible, in order to protect the public health and welfare of communities and animals around the world.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I urge you to consider supporting this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alcee L. Hastings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress