

demonstrates the importance of ensuring that the FDNY continues to receive the proper resources and training and that crucial engine companies like 161 are spared from the budget chopping block.

On behalf of all of the residents of Staten Island, I am proud to recognize and commend Engine 161/Ladder 81—and all of the firefighters who assisted—for a job well done.

RECIPROCAL ACCESS TO TIBET ACT

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, H.R. 4851. This bipartisan bill promotes access to Tibetan areas of China for U.S. officials, journalists, and average citizens. Currently, travel restrictions on Tibet are more severe than for any other provincial-level entity of China.

These restrictions have negative consequences for both U.S. citizens and Tibetans. After an October 2013 bus crash with Americans on board, U.S. consular officers faced prolonged delays in obtaining access to Tibet, hindering their ability to serve Americans in distress; and restricted access to Tibet leaves Tibetans in virtual isolation from the world community, limiting international exchange and the ability to objectively assess the human rights situation there.

These restrictions are not reciprocal to the access that Chinese visitors generally enjoy in the U.S. As reciprocity is the basis for diplomacy, this bill renders inadmissible to the U.S. Chinese officials who design and implement these restrictions.

I urge my colleagues to join Congressman PITTS and me in promoting freer access to Tibet.

RECIPROCAL ACCESS TO TIBET ACT OF 2014

Purpose: To promote the freedom to travel by U.S. diplomats, journalists, and citizens in Tibetan areas of the People's Republic of China.

What it does: Prohibits visa access to the United States to Chinese officials in 'senior leadership positions' from provinces with Tibetan populations, and others, if the Chinese government allows less U.S. access to Tibetan areas than it gives to non-Tibetan areas of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

How it works:

1. Report on access and leaders. The State Department is required to give Congress a report on (a) the level of access granted by Chinese authorities to U.S. diplomats, journalists, and tourists to Tibetan areas in the PRC, including a comparison with non-Tibetan areas, and (b) a list of 'senior leadership positions' in Tibetan areas, including at the provincial level and some at the national level.

2. Visa ban. Chinese officials are not eligible for visa entry to the U.S., as follows—

'Senior leaders' from the Tibet Autonomous Region, if the Tibet Tourism Bureau permit has not been revoked;

'Senior leaders' from Sichuan, Qinghai, Yunnan and Gansu, if level of U.S. access to Tibetan areas in these provinces is more restricted than U.S. access to non-Tibetan areas;

'Senior leaders' at the regional and national level, if Tibet Tourism Bureau permit has not been revoked and if U.S. access to Tibetan areas in the four provinces is more restricted than U.S. access to non-Tibetan areas.

National interest waiver. The bill allows the Secretary of State to waive the prohibition if determined to be in the national interest.

Definitions. The report defines Tibetan areas as the Tibet Autonomous Region and the jurisdictions within the provinces of Sichuan, Qinghai, Yunnan and Gansu designated as autonomous for Tibetans. It provides definitions for 'senior leadership positions' at the county, prefecture, provincial, and national level.

Non-binding language on visa reciprocity. Expresses Sense of the House that the Secretary should take into account the level of access granted to Tibetan areas when granting visas to people from the PRC to come to the U.S.

[Prepared by the International Campaign on Tibet June 12, 2014]

FACT SHEET: ACCESS TO TIBET BY AMERICANS

WHAT CHINA SAYS: TIBET IS OPEN TO FOREIGNERS

The government of China sees tourism as a pillar of Tibet's economy. Chinese officials have said that Tibet is open to foreign visitors:

"[I]f a foreign official, reporter or scholar wants to go to Tibet as an individual to increase his or her understanding of the Tibetan people and their culture, we will welcome them."—Zhu Weiqun, executive vice minister of the United Front Work Department, 2012.¹

"Many foreigners, including reporters, have traveled to Tibet for work, tours and interviews. I believe we'll see more foreigners coming to Tibet as the region develops and conditions improve constantly."—Padma Trinley, chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Region legislature, 2013.²

"We hope that (people) from all fields within the country and outside go to Tibet often to look around, study and travel, but as to some other aspects, we are not that welcoming."—Qiangba Puncog, former chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Region legislature.³

WHAT CHINA DOES: RESTRICT ACCESS TO TIBET BY FOREIGNERS

In reality, American tourists, diplomats and journalists still face many barriers to get into Tibet. All foreigners are required to get a special permit to enter the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR)—a permit that is not required for any other provincial-level entity of the People's Republic of China. Travel to Tibetan areas outside the TAR is also tightly controlled.

Restrictions on U.S. tourists

American tourists are required to obtain the 'Tibetan Tourist Permit' to enter the TAR. The permits can only be obtained through a Chinese government-run or -approved travel agency. In some cases, and depending on the area in Tibet one wants to visit, additional permits such as the "Tibet Group Visa", "Alien's Travel Permit" and "Military Permit" are required.⁴

The State Department advises American travelers that "permits are not always granted" and that at "certain times the PRC may not allow foreigners to enter an area it

deems restricted."⁵ It adds that the "TAR remains a sensitive area for travel, and even when travel to Tibet is allowed, usually only Lhasa and part of Shan Nan are open to foreigners."⁶

During certain times, the Chinese government closes off the entire TAR to foreign tourists for months, often with no warning.⁷ Usually such closures coincide with what the Chinese government claims are "sensitive periods" such as during March, the anniversary of the Tibetan uprising in 1959,⁸ or during the time of the Communist Party sessions in Beijing.⁹ The Chinese government also imposes arbitrary rules on obtaining the Tibet travel permit. For example in 2012 and 2013 only groups of no less than five people could apply.¹⁰ In 2014, this rule was then said to be no longer in effect, but it was reported that tours to Mount Kailash (a holy mountain and pilgrimage site for Hindus, Jains and Buddhists) and far western Tibet were not permitted at all after May 23, 2014.¹¹

Restrictions on U.S. journalists

American journalists have difficulty reporting from Tibet, and are subject to many of the same restrictions faced by tourists. The Washington Post reported that "[T]here are more foreign journalists in North Korea than there are in Tibet."¹²

The State Department has reported that "[t]he Chinese government severely restricted travel by foreign journalists to Tibetan areas. Additionally, the Chinese government subjected Tibetans who spoke to foreign reporters, attempted to provide information to persons outside the country, . . . to harassment or detention."¹³ In 2013 a few foreign journalists could get into Tibet only because they accepted a government-sponsored tour which made any independent reporting difficult. The State Department quotes Australian Journalist Rowan Callick saying, "I had accepted an invitation from the State Council Information Office—the media arm of China's cabinet—to visit Tibet, since there is no other way in which journalists can enter without subterfuge."¹⁴ During a February 2014 visit to China, Secretary of State John Kerry urged China's leaders to allow journalists, diplomats, and other observers unrestricted access to China's Tibetan areas.¹⁵

Restrictions on U.S. diplomats

Diplomats face similar restrictions on access to Tibetan areas, limiting their ability to do reporting, monitoring and consular work. The State Department reported that its officials submitted more than 16 requests for diplomatic access to the TAR between May 2011 and November 2013, but only two were granted. Its report added, "The Chinese government . . . repeatedly prevented foreign diplomatic personnel from visiting Tibetan areas outside the TAR for which permission was not officially required."¹⁶

The Department also reported "foreign diplomats who legally traveled in Tibetan areas outside the TAR . . . were repeatedly approached by local police and sometimes forced to leave without reasonable explanation."¹⁷

The Chinese government has permitted two visits by two U.S. Ambassadors to Lhasa in recent years—by Ambassador Gary Locke in 2013 and Ambassador Jon Huntsman in 2010. Each was a three-day, government-organized trip, which was highly controlled,¹⁸ and they did not visit areas in the TAR outside of Lhasa. On his visit, Ambassador Locke urged Beijing to open up Tibet to foreign diplomats, journalists and tourists.¹⁹

ENDNOTES

¹ "Chinese official talks with EU representatives on Tibet issue," *China Tibet Online*, February 8, 2012, <http://>

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⁴“Disneyfication of Tibet,” *Washington Monthly*, January/February 2014, www.washingtonmonthly.com/magazine

⁵State Department travel advisory for China, travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/china.html

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⁷“Tibet again off limits to tourists,” *Travel Weekly*, September 2012, <http://www.travelweekly.com/Asia-Travel/Tibet-again-off-limits-to-foreign-tourists/>

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¹⁰Ibid

¹¹“Explore Tibet, a travel agency based in Lhasa,” <http://www.explore-tibet.com/Essential-Info/Tibet-Visa-Permits/>

¹²“North Korea is more accessible to foreign journalists than Tibet is,” *Washington Post*, December 17, 2013, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2013/12/17/north-korea-is-more-accessible-to-foreign-journalists-than-tibet-is/>

¹³State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013, http://www.state.gov/rdrls/hrp/humanrightsreport/index.htm?dynamic_load_id=220187&year=2013#wrapper

¹⁴Ibid

¹⁵State Department Daily Press Briefing, February 25, 2014, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2014/02/222442.htm#CHINA2>

¹⁶State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013, http://www.state.gov/rdrls/hrp/humanrightsreport/index.htm?dynamic_load_id=220187&year=2013#wrapper

¹⁷State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2011, <http://www.state.gov/rdrls/hrp/2011/eap/187481.htm>

¹⁸“Ambassador to China makes rare visit to Tibet,” *CBSNews.com*, June 27, 2013, <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-ambassador-to-china-gary-locke-makes-rare-visit-to-tibet-urges-beijing-to-open-region-up/>

¹⁹Ibid

U.S. MILITARY CODE OF CONDUCT

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, the military Code of Conduct reads:

I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no

information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

PUYALLUP HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. HECK of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, in Washington State, 67 schools compete in the 4A high school sports division—67 schools, nine spring sports teams and one dream.

For three spring teams representing the Puyallup purple and gold, that dream came true.

This spring, Puyallup High School, located in the 10th Congressional District, captured State titles in baseball, fastpitch softball, and boys golf.

The Vikings baseball team finished their season undefeated, and for the first time in the history of our State, both the baseball and the fastpitch softball teams won their State championships. Boys golf joined them, and three of the top five players were from Puyallup High School.

When I was in high school, it was a thrill beyond measure just to get to the State playoffs. It is inconceivable to win not one, not two, but three State championships. The 10th District is proud of the Vikes, and we congratulate all of the student athletes who made these dreams come true.

FATHER'S DAY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor our fathers—fathers of this country—who have provided the stable, loving atmosphere for children all over the Nation.

I thank, in particular, my late father, the first African American comic cartoonist, Ezra Jackson, who provided me with such stability and love and inspiration; my father-in-law, a Tuskegee Airman, who served in World War II; certainly, my own husband, Dr. Elwyn C. Lee, who integrated the faculty of the University of Houston and its administration.

But the real tribute is to the many fathers across America who have taken children and treated them with love and dignity and who have given them, even if they did not have it, some semblance of comfort—fathers who have

adopted, fathers who have foster cared, fathers who are incarcerated but who still try to maintain the love and connection with their children, poor fathers, working fathers—those who have found their way to claim Sunday as the day when we say, “Happy Father’s Day.”

We honor the fathers of America. We thank you for the foundation that you have given to this Nation.

CLIMATE CHANGE DENIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to spend a few moments this afternoon reflecting on the recent order that is being promulgated by President Obama and the EPA dealing with the goals for carbon emission.

Now, even before the President’s announcement of the carbon goals last week, the spin machine was in full battle mode. There was a full-throated expression of outrage for the apologists for pollution. Those who are profiting from what we are doing now and who are investing the least amount of change are making dire predictions that sound eerily familiar.

The reason they sound familiar is that we have, in fact, heard them before. There was similar gloom and doom that greeted the Federal Government during the first Bush administration that was, if you will forgive the phrase—hold onto your hats—a cap-and-trade program to deal with acid rain. There were claims that it was unworkable, that it would be expensive, that it would create far more problems than it would solve; frankly, we just couldn’t afford to move ahead, that we should instead continue the same approach we had for years, the same approach that resulted in minimal progress and contributed to acid rain damage to our waterways, to our forests, and to the health of our people. But the Bush administration argued against the naysayers in that by setting a framework requiring limits to be met and giving flexibility to the States’ utilities on how it would be achieved, we would make progress for relatively minor costs, and it would be worth it.

Almost 25 years later, the verdict is in. It has been a remarkable success. The program didn’t require massive bureaucracy or a huge, unmanageable cost. We have, in fact, dramatically reduced acid rain. We have promoted investment in new technology. Our lakes and forests are healthier, and so are our people. The cleanup was achieved in the regular course of business, changing the incentives and the signals that were sent.

This success, with bipartisan support, may be one of the reasons that, as we moved into the new century, the