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We seek support for a “preclearance” arrangement operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the Taoyuan International Airport, which is the primary international point of entry to Taiwan.

Preclearance is a program that places CBP officers in foreign airports to screen American and foreign travelers bound for the United States at the point of origin, rather than upon arrival in America. Travelers present their passports and luggage for inspection before their flight in a similar manner to what they would do upon arrival at a U.S. port of entry.

Congress has funded such programs at airports in Canada, Ireland, and Bermuda, among others, because of their many economic and security benefits. CBP is able to stop travelers who are not admissible to the United States at the point of origin. Passengers can begin their vacation or business trip immediately upon arrival, rather than face potentially long lines after their flight. Airlines are freed from using only international gates and international airports in the United States, and can tighten their connections to domestic flights. Tourism-dependent destinations in the United States benefit from ease of travel (a major reason Florida’s representatives advocated preclearance in Canada).

Taoyuan Airport makes great sense for preclearance expansion. The airport has a mixture of flights operated by U.S. and Taiwanese carriers with nonstop-service to the west and east coasts. Taiwan is America’s ninth-largest trading partner. All current preclearance operations, as well as one recently approved for Brussels, are located in Europe, the Caribbean, Canada, or the Middle East. Taoyuan would be a way to expand the program to East Asia with a modest-sized airport. (It would not preclude a future arrangement with Japan, about which there have been on-again, off-again talks with the Japanese government.)

Preclearance would also be a symbol of the strong relationship between Taiwan and the United States, especially at a time when China increasingly subjects Taiwan to belligerent statements and military displays. It would further enhance law-enforcement cooperation between Taiwan and the United States. Taiwan’s president and other political leaders support preclearance at Taoyuan, which should ensure negotiations move quickly.

Preclearance operations are typically funded through a cost-sharing agreement, often including a per-ticket surcharge for those travelling on a precleared flight. Taoyuan Airport has filed its application with CBP, but exact costs are still being calculated. In the meantime, statements of support and report language supporting preclearance at Taoyuan Airport would be helpful in advancing the program.

[Date]

The Honorable Troy Miller  
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Mr. Miller:

We are writing to express our support for establishing a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) preclearance facility at Taiwan's Taoyuan International Airport. Such an act would improve the travel economies of both of our countries and signal the importance of our relationship with Taiwan.

As you know, Congress has funded preclearance facilities because they make travel easier for both Americans and foreigners flying to the United States. By clearing immigration and customs at the point of departure, CBP is able to stop inadmissible travelers before they arrive here, travelers can begin their vacations or business trips faster, and airlines can park precleared flights at far more gates and airports in the United States than flights from abroad that still require screening. Our crowded domestic CBP facilities need to screen fewer arriving passengers, which makes inbound travel easier for everyone. Expanding preclearance will help our travel industry, which has been decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Taiwan is a particularly good choice for the next CBP preclearance facility. All other such facilities are located in Canada, the Caribbean, Europe, or the Middle East. Taoyuan airport, which hosts numerous non-stop flights to the United States, makes sense as a location for the first U.S. preclearance installation in East Asia. Taiwan is America's 9<sup>th</sup>-largest trading partner in goods and its government is strongly supportive of such a program. Like other countries with CBP preclearance, the Taiwanese government would share the cost. [Note: We can arrange confirmation of this point from Taiwan's embassy if desired.]

I understand Taiwan has made a formal application to CBP for preclearance at Taoyuan International Airport. I urge you to give it favorable consideration on an expedited basis.

Your truly,

**EXECUTION**

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, and subject to the penalties of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 22 U.S.C. § 618, the undersigned swears or affirms under penalty of perjury that he/she has read the information set forth in this statement filed pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.*, that he/she is familiar with the contents thereof, and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Date

Printed Name

Signature

2/12/21

PHILMORE B. ANDERSON

