

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Room H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write to urge you to support Radio Free Asia (RFA) and other journalistic initiatives that compete with the CCP through means of appropriations that ensure international broadcasting activities critical to the global information contest continue to operate across the Indo-Pacific. In an era of escalating strategic competition, RFA and similar U.S. government programs serve as a critical and exceptionally cost-effective soft power tool to compete with the CCP's attempt to repress its people and replace American leadership worldwide.

Launched in 1996 and funded by indirect Congressional appropriations, RFA and its digital brands BenarNews and WHYNOT (歪脑) empower populations living under repressive regimes in the Indo-Pacific, including in the People's Republic of China (PRC). RFA delivers truth-telling, incisive news that directly competes with the CCP's billion-dollar global propaganda and disinformation campaign that is growing by the day.¹

RFA's effectiveness in our strategic competition is well-documented and irreplaceable. For instance, RFA was first to inform the world about the mass, extra-judicial internments of ethnic Uyghurs in Xinjiang, establishing the public record that was foundational to our government's determination of genocide.² RFA has also established a specialized unit to track and map PRC propaganda, exposing falsehoods weaponized against the United States, Taiwan, and our partners.³ Furthermore, RFA is the only news service in the world with services for all claimants in the South China Sea, reporting extensively on the PRC's gray-zone tactics that intimidate U.S. partners and threaten global supply chains.⁴ Its investigative team has exposed PRC secret police stations in the U.S. and Europe, and its new Pacific Service is reporting on the PRC's malign influence and resource exploitation in vulnerable Pacific-island nations.⁵

RFA consistently punches above its weight, providing fact-based, uncensored, local-language journalism in media-denied environments where the CCP seeks to impose a monopoly on information. This work directly counters PRC disinformation, provides a lifeline of truth to oppressed populations, and

¹ https://2021-2025.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/HOW-THE-PEOPLES-REPUBLIC-OF-CHINA-SEEKS-TO-RESHAPE-THE-GLOBAL-INFORMATION-ENVIRONMENT_508.pdf

² <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2019/10/24/knowledge-of-chinas-gulag-owes-much-to-american-backed-radio>

³ <https://www.rfa.org/english/factcheck/2025/04/25/afcl-china-ccp-propaganda-in-taiwan/>

⁴ <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/sabina-shoal-explainer-09232024102759.html>

⁵ <https://www.rfa.org/english/environment/2025/03/17/environment-kirbati-china-deep-sea-mining-tmc/>

equips U.S. policymakers and allies with a clearer understanding of the CCP's malign activities. RFA therefore provides an indispensable public good that supports U.S. foreign policy and national security interests.

Unfortunately, due to attempts to cancel RFA's grant agreement and the current lapse in appropriations, RFA has had to lay off 80 percent of its domestic workforce and is now being forced to stop publications effective Friday, October 31, 2025.⁶ Given this uncertainty in funding, RFA is unable to fulfill its Congressional mandate to advance U.S. strategic interests across the Indo-Pacific through supporting fact-based journalism. Regrettably, the void created by RFA's inability to operate is actively being filled by the CCP: Beijing has added radio frequencies to reach Uyghur and Tibetan audiences previously serviced by RFA's fact-based journalism.⁷

In order to remain competitive in the global information ecosystem, I urge you to fully and directly appropriate funds to Radio Free Asia in Fiscal Year 2026 and to ensure the United States international broadcasting activities remain competitive. This cost-effective investment is essential to ensure that the United States can effectively compete with CCP propaganda, stand up for human rights, and support a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Ranking Member



Young Kim
Member of Congress

⁶ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/10/29/radio-free-asia-funding-crisis/>

⁷ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/06/06/trump-radio-free-asia-cuts-china-propaganda/>