

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 8th, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to express our deep concern regarding the People's Republic of China's escalating economic and military coercion against Japan following Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's November 2025 statements on Japan's security obligations in the event of an attack on Taiwan. Beijing's actions – including import suspensions, tourism and visa restrictions, informal pressure on critical industries, and dangerous military maneuvers near Okinawa - threaten Japan's economic stability and undermine broader security and strategic interests across the Indo-Pacific.

The PRC's economic pressure tactics follow a well-established pattern of coercive behavior against sovereign nations. Beijing has used similar measures before - punishing South Korea following the deployment of the THAAD missile defense system, blocking Lithuanian exports when Vilnius expanded ties with Taipei, and imposing punitive measures against Australia after it called for an independent inquiry into the origins of COVID-19. These actions show a clear willingness from Beijing to weaponize trade, investment, and market access to advance the Chinese Communist Party's political goals, often without transparency or adherence to international norms. Similarly, the use of locked radar against Japanese military aircraft in recent days is consistent with Beijing's destabilizing provocations in the Taiwan Strait and the South and East China Seas.

Japan is one of the United States' closest allies, and the U.S.–Japan alliance remains a cornerstone of our shared commitment to maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific. As Tokyo faces targeted retaliation for speaking openly about defending its sovereignty, the United States must respond in a manner that both reinforces our ally and pushes back against the use of PRC economic coercion as a geopolitical weapon.

We urge the Administration to support our ally in the face of PRC coercion and reconsider tariffs on Japan, particularly in sectors directly affected by the coercive actions of the PRC. Relief from such tariffs would provide immediate economic support to key Japanese industries, signal U.S. resolve in standing with our allies from economic coercion, and demonstrate that coordinated action among democracies can blunt the impact of politically motivated trade pressure.

Providing tariff relief to Japan would also send a clear message that the United States rejects the normalization of Beijing's coercive trade tactics and is prepared to back its allies when they are targeted for exercising their sovereign rights. We look forward to working with your Administration to ensure Japan – and all U.S. partners – do not face these challenges alone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ami Bera". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ami" and last name "Bera" clearly distinguishable.

Ami Bera, M.D.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific
House Foreign Affairs Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory W. Meeks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Gregory W. Meeks
Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs Committee