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EDWARD R. ROYCE
Thirty-ninth District—California

October 27, 2016

Mr. John H. Thompson
Director
United States Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road
Washington, DC 20233

Dear Director Thompson,

I am writing on behalf of my constituents who would like to see the United States Census Bureau include a separate check box for Americans who identify as “Taiwanese” in sections that deal with race in the 2020 Census questionnaire.

In 1997, the State Department expressed concern about listing “Taiwanese” as a race in the Census questionnaire because it “would be contrary to U.S. Government policy and U.S. national interests.” However, as the Census is a purely domestic policy matter, it should not be subject to international politics and diplomatic pressure.

Many of my Taiwanese-American constituents have consistently expressed frustration and concern to me over the lack of statistics available on Taiwanese-Americans.

The Census Bureau must ensure that the 2020 Census is both accurate and reflective of the U.S. population. As Taiwanese-Americans consider themselves a separate ethnicity from Chinese Americans, I believe that it would be prudent to honor and respect their identity.

I thank you for your attention to this matter and urge you to give this designation its full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Royce".

EDWARD R. ROYCE
Chairman