

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 17, 2018

The Honorable Cui Tiankai
Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
3505 International Place, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Ambassador Cui:

We write today concerned by China's recent implementation of an import ban on 24 types of waste materials, including paper and plastic. Instead of immediately halting these imports, we urge China to work with the United States to develop a multi-year transition plan so that this mutually-beneficial flow of materials does not come to a complete end.

As you undoubtedly know, China is the world's largest producer of paper and plastic materials and post-consumer products are an important part of that manufacturing process. The United States is a large contributor of recycled materials for Chinese production, exporting nearly 8 million tons in 2016 alone.

We understand that one reason China banned the importation of paper and plastic is due to environmental concerns. Exporters in our states are also sensitive to environmental concerns and have worked with China since 2013 to reduce contamination rates of exported recycled materials in order to meet Chinese regulations.

In order to preserve this flow of materials, we ask that China work with the United States to develop a multi-year transition period with attainable contamination levels for importers of recyclable materials. American recyclers maintain some of the lowest contamination rates in the world, and are therefore capable of supporting China's goal of sustainable environmentally-friendly manufacturing.

We believe that it is in the best interest of both the United States and China to work together to implement a transition period that allows for American recyclers and Chinese manufacturers to continue this important commerce. Thank you for taking the time to review this matter.

Sincerely,


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator


Ron Wyden
United States Senator