Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to strongly urge you to take action in support of the Uyghur people by co-sponsoring S. 65, the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act. This bill will help establish that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) of the People's Republic of China never enter the United States. The Chinese government must be held accountable for its unconscionable crime against humanity and the Uyghur people must be protected at home and abroad. Moreover, the United States has always been and must remain a moral compass for the rest of the world.

Global supply chains are “increasingly at risk of being tainted with goods and products made with forced labor from the XUAR,” the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) reported, warning that “the risk for complicity in forced labor is high for any company importing goods directly from the XUAR or those partnering with a Chinese company operating in the region.” A similar report by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute said that more than 80,000 Uyghur detainees in the XUAR have been transferred to factories throughout China, where they are forced to produce goods for at least 83 global retailers, including Apple, BMW, The Gap, Samsung, Sony, Lenovo, Dell, HP, LG, and Volkswagen, among many others.

The legislation makes the critical finding that ordinary due diligence to ensure clean supply chains is unreliable in the Uyghur region because forced labor has been so seamlessly integrated into the regional economy and surveillance, coercion, and intimidation of workers are so systemic. Since the cleanness of the goods is exceedingly difficult to establish, the legislation assumes everything from the region is tainted by forced labor and blocks it from entering our shores, unless U.S. Customs and Border Protection can demonstrate they are clean with “clear and convincing evidence.”

The legislation would also require the U.S. government to impose Global Magnitsky sanctions on foreign persons who knowingly engage in Uyghur forced labor or attempt to violate U.S. law on importation of forced labor goods. Finally, it calls for the State Department to make a determination of whether crimes against humanity and genocide are underway in Xinjiang.

A bipartisan, bicameral group of lawmakers introduced the bill. U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) was joined by Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Tom Cotton (R-AR), Steve Daines (R-MT), Mitt Romney (R-UT), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Todd Young (R-IN), Dick Durbin (D-IL), and Ted Cruz (R-TX) in introducing the legislation in the Senate. Companion legislation in the House passed with near-unanimity on September 22, 2020, and is expected to pass again by a similar margin in this Congress.

I cannot urge more strongly that you, as a champion of human rights, add your name as a cosponsor to this bill.

Sincerely,