



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA

MAYOR

August 31, 2021

The Honorable Ted Lieu  
U.S House of Representatives  
403 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C 20515

Dear Congressman Lieu:

On behalf of the City of San Diego, I'm writing in support of H.R. 4526, the *City and State Diplomacy Act*. In an increasingly interconnected world, U.S. cities and states have been complementing the U.S. Federal Government's role in international relations, including promoting U.S. exports. I was pleased to see you re-introduce this bipartisan bill with Representative Joe Wilson (R-SC) and 13 other lawmakers earlier this month that would establish an Office of City and State Diplomacy at the U.S. Department of State to address the disconnect in U.S. diplomatic efforts. This bill provides city and state elected officials a more prominent seat at the international table.

The *City and State Diplomacy Act* would support exchanges and cooperation agreements between U.S. local elected leaders and officials of state and municipal governments and those of international cities, regions, and countries. This support, I understand, includes the Executive Branch appointing an individual to an Ambassadorial position, subject to U.S. Senate confirmation, to run the new office. Notably, this office would be tasked with coordinating engagement with associations of subnational elected leaders, such as the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Governors Association, National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, Council of State Governments, National Conference of State Legislators, and State International Development Offices. San Diego is active in a number of these associations, and I am pleased to see this bill endorses increased Federal engagement at this level.

I strongly support passage of this bill, as it will help to amplify subnational efforts to address climate change and environmental concerns, as well as trade, with our international partners. As one of the largest U.S. cities within proximity to the U.S.-Mexican international border, San Diego regularly works with our partners along the border on issues including climate change, environmental concerns, and trade matters. For example, our bi-national work to address transboundary sewage overflows in the Tijuana River Watershed have been complicated by the need to coordinate with the State Department, but not having a clear forum to do so. This bill would provide that needed sustained engagement.

Thank you for your continued support in advancing legislation on this need. Please know that I, and my staff, stand prepared to help with engaging other Members of the U.S. Congress – including the U.S. Senate – of the importance of approving H.R. 4526 and getting the bill to President Joe Biden's desk for enactment. Should you have any follow up questions please contact Walt Bishop, Strategic Advisor for Federal Affairs, at [wbishop@sandiego.gov](mailto:wbishop@sandiego.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Gloria". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "G".

TODD GLORIA  
Mayor  
City of San Diego

**CC:**

The Honorable Sen. Dianne Feinstein  
The Honorable Sen. Alex Padilla  
The Honorable Rep. Mike Levin  
The Honorable Rep. Scott Peters  
The Honorable Rep. Juan Vargas  
The Honorable Rep. Sara Jacobs