

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 12, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Many Members of Congress warmly welcomed the launch of the first uncensored satellite TV broadcasting to China and East Asia last May. The pioneering US based channel, New Tang Dynasty TV (NTDTV), is the only truly independent Chinese language TV reaching tens of millions of private satellite dishes across China. NTDTV broadcasts include news, information, and cultural content that helps promote democracy and freedom.

Eutelsat, the Paris based satellite company that transmits NTDTV over Asia, has recently reached a "historic partnership agreement" with the same Chinese Ministry that demanded Eutelsat stop broadcasting NTDTV. Eutelsat has notified NTDTV that, as of April 15th, it will no longer carry NTDTV's channel in Asia.

We understand that when the Chinese and French Governments strongly pressured Eutelsat last spring to stop broadcasting NTDTV, only counter pressure from the US Government, Eutelsat's top customer, succeeded in keeping the channel on air. Eutelsat is the largest supplier of satellite services to the US Government, enjoying over 40% of our total contracts. The company operates under specific European and international agreements guaranteeing non discrimination, equal access, and respect for pluralism.

Eutelsat had also promised to expand this "open satellite window" to welcome the Voice of America, Radio Free Asia, and other democracy and religious channels to broadcast on its Asia satellite. This step is vital in opening the media markets in China, Burma, Vietnam and other Asian countries. Instead of proceeding on this path, however, Eutelsat may now be giving into Beijing's formal demand for control over all content transmitted into Chinese territory. If Eutelsat allows NTDTV broadcasting to expire, it could encourage repressive regimes around the world to stop whatever satellite broadcasts they oppose.

If NTDTV is silenced, it will enable one of the world's worst violators of a free press and other human rights to re-establish full censorship over the broadcast information available to its citizens. In light of our nation's pre-eminent role in promoting transparency, openness and freedom overseas, the silencing of NTDTV's broadcast to China is an unacceptable outcome.

We respectfully request that you address this issue with Eutelsat and urge them to reconsider their decision to deny service to NTDTV. While the US government has had a strong relationship with Eutelsat to date, we see no reason why U.S. taxpayers should continue to fund satellite companies that discriminate in favor of repressive regimes and against free media.

Thank you for considering our request. We hope you will ensure that free TV is not shut down for millions of viewers in China.

Sincerely,

Chris Smith

Tom Lantos

Henry Hyde

Jander Lewi

Nita M. Jones

Bill Sand

J. Sato

Howard S. Berman

Donald Payne

Rosa L. J. San

Lynn Woolsey

Benny Boehler

George Akum

Robert Menendez

Chie Lin

Ernie L. Enge

Mona Cox-Letterman

Dan Burton

Edward J. Markey

Patrick Fitzg

Paul Holt

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Kon Kind

Tom Tomaredo

Chris Van Bollen

Pete Sessions

Neil Chernomir

Michael Fitzpatrick

Virgil Goode

Dan Rostenkowski

Rae Weller

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Ken Ken

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Joe Wilson

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<u>Steven A. Rothman</u>	<u>Carie Cox</u>
<u>Sheldon Jack Lee</u>	<u>Corrine Brown</u>
<u>Lore Evans</u>	<u>Michael M. Hunt</u>
<u>Tiff</u>	<u>John Schatzky</u>
<u>John W. Oliver</u>	<u>Caroleyn McCauley</u>
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<u>John Lewis</u>	<u>Ted Strickland</u>
<u>Steve Traub</u>	<u>Orin Can</u>
<u>Allyson Schwartz</u>	<u>Frank Pallone, Jr.</u>
<u>Daniel Scott</u>	<u>John Sun IL-15</u>
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George J. Bush

Eddie Bernice Johnson

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[Signature]

Stephen Hadley

Michael T. McCard

cc:

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State  
The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense  
The Honorable Stephen Hadley, National Security Advisor