

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 24, 2025

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser,

We write to inquire about the District's sister city relationship with Beijing, China. Earlier this year, Washington, D.C. was listed as having an active sister city agreement with Beijing on the official D.C. Office of the Secretary website.¹ However, as of August, the publicized list no longer includes Beijing. Given the national security implications, we believe it is important to ensure that all formal and informal agreements between U.S. and foreign municipalities are not exploited by foreign governments—particularly the People's Republic of China—as vehicles to advance soft-power objectives, disseminate propaganda, or suppress dissenting voices. We are certain you share our commitment to protecting U.S. communities from potential foreign influence and safeguarding American interests.

To that end, we request information on the following:

- (1) whether the District's sister city agreement with Beijing has been formally terminated or merely suspended;
- (2) a copy of any memorandum of understanding, contract, or agreement—past or present—between the District of Columbia and any Chinese governmental entity, including the City of Beijing; and
- (3) whether the District is currently reviewing or reassessing other international partnerships to ensure mitigation against potential risks.

We look forward to your prompt response. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator

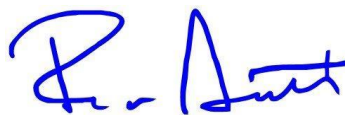


Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator

¹ Office of the Secretary, District of Columbia. DC Sister Cities. <https://os.dc.gov/service/dc-sister-cities>

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Cotton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Tom Cotton
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Scott". The signature is cursive, with a large initial "R" and a stylized "S".

Rick Scott
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted Budd". The signature is cursive, with a large initial "T" and a stylized "B".

Ted Budd
United States Senator