

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

The flag of the United States of America is a visual representation of the principles of justice, liberty, and democracy for the people of the United States. Since its creation by the Second Continental Congress, the American Flag has been flown over government buildings, schools, houses of worship, homes, and businesses. Many Americans have sacrificed their lives to keep our flag flying throughout our nation's history, and many around the world have utilized our flag as a symbol of democracy and freedom against oppressive governments.

Many federal government buildings like the White House and U.S. Capitol have chosen to accompany additional flags on the same halyard as the American Flag. For example, the Prisoner of War (POW) flag, which was adopted by the 101st Congress under U.S. Public Law 101-355, is currently flown with the American Flag around our nation and at our embassies around the world. We ask that our embassies abroad uphold the same standards as our federal buildings within the United States by ensuring the only flags flown at embassies are those that have been authorized by the United States government. Flags authorized by the United States comprise of our national flag, states and territories, branches of our military, and the departments and agencies that make up our government. We believe these are the only flags that should be flown on the same halyard as the American Flag as well as any flag authorized by Congress.

The mission of the Department of State is to represent America's foreign policy abroad and to advance the interests and security of the American people. Flying unauthorized flags does not represent this mission statement and can further complicate American interests around the world. We understand that every U.S. diplomatic mission requires written approval from senior State Department leadership to fly any flag from the same halyard as the U.S. flag. However, there is an exception of a foreign service flag or a prisoner of war/missing in action flag that can be flown without permission due to prior congressional approval. As previously stated, we believe that these are the only flags that should accompany the American Flag on the same halyard.

The American flag encompasses many different values that represent the American people and does not give favor to specific groups or individuals. In return, the flags that flies over a government building should represent every American and should not look to divide ideologies, or specific factions. We look forward to working with you on ensuring our embassies represent all American interests around the world.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress



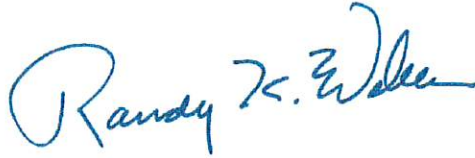
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Stuebe
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress