

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 26, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Pete Hegseth  
Secretary of War  
U.S. Department of War  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Rubio and Secretary Hegseth:

We write to thank you both for your efforts to ensure the continuity of U.S.-U.K. joint operations at Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia and to urge you to oppose the proposed agreement between the U.K. and Mauritius to transfer sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, to Mauritius. This agreement presents serious risks to U.S. national security and the long-term viability of one of America's most strategically important military installations.

As you know, Diego Garcia's strategic location in the Indian Ocean makes it indispensable to U.S. force projection and intelligence operations across Eastern Africa, the Middle East, and the Indian Ocean. The deal between the U.K. and Mauritius would trade that strategic ability for short-term diplomatic convenience while imposing long-term strategic costs.

The transfer of sovereignty of the archipelago to Mauritius creates a substantial counterintelligence and espionage risk to the United States. The agreement requires sharing highly sensitive information with the Mauritian government, including the locations of equipment in the archipelago. It also requires the notification of any armed attack on a third country emanating from Diego Garcia. Given the increased political, diplomatic, and economic ties between Mauritius and Beijing over the last decade, these intrusive provisions put U.S. operations at risk.

Mauritius is also a signatory to the Pelindaba treaty and a partner to the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Beijing Action Plan (2025-2027). Together, these agreements create and implement an African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone backed by China. Signatories are prohibited from stationing or testing nuclear devices in the territory and must adhere to a legally binding inspection

regime to ensure cooperation. Mauritius's accession to these agreements provides China with a pretext to inspect sites in the Chagos Archipelago or to pressure the U.S. and U.K. not to station nuclear capabilities at Diego Garcia.

Finally, a host nation with full sovereign authority over the archipelago possesses the legal, political, and diplomatic tools to condition, constrain, and renegotiate American access to the base. Continued access will depend on the U.K. continuing to pay millions of pounds to the Mauritian government each year. If a new U.K. government refuses to pay, or economic downturns constrain the U.K.'s ability to pay, the U.S. could lose access to its base.

Despite these outstanding concerns, the U.K. and Mauritius are on the cusp of formalizing the deal.

Fortunately, President Trump has publicly expressed concerns regarding the proposed agreement, providing an opportunity for the State Department and War Department to oppose the U.K.'s transfer of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius and communicate unequivocal opposition to this deal to the U.K. We hope this includes formally rescinding any diplomatic note or other communication approving the deal that the Departments may have previously conveyed to the U.K.

Again, we thank you for your work on this issue and hope we can prevent a disastrous outcome for the United States.

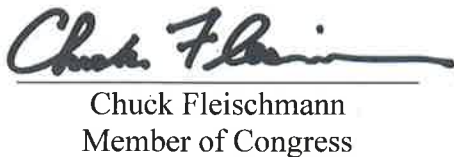
Sincerely,



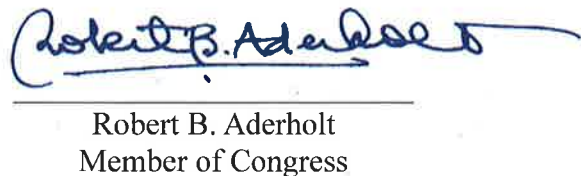
John Kennedy  
U.S. Senator



Ted Cruz  
U.S. Senator



Chuck Fleischmann  
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress