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**J. Randy Forbes**  
**United States Congress**

**4th District, Virginia**  
**December 3, 2013**

The Honorable Susan Rice  
National Security Advisor  
600 17<sup>th</sup> St NW  
Washington, DC 20508-0001

Dear Ms. Rice:

China's unilateral and destabilizing imposition of an "Air Defense Identification Zone" (ADIZ) in the East China Sea has necessitated a strong response from the United States and its allies in the region. I am encouraged by the Administration's refusal to accept China's attempt to use military coercion to alter the existing regional balance, and especially its reaffirmation that Article V of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty applies to the Senkaku Islands.

While I appreciate the Administration's public refutation of Beijing's action, I am concerned by guidance issued from the Department of State and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) urging U.S. commercial airlines to comply with China's ADIZ restrictions, in seeming contradiction to the Administration's own statements. By submitting flight plans to China while traversing international airspace, U.S. airlines will be acknowledging the validity of China's ADIZ at the same time other elements of the U.S. Government are vigorously, and appropriately, contesting Beijing's behavior. Furthermore, at a time when Japan is looking to the United States to be a strong partner, this decision seems to put us at odds with our ally in Tokyo and suggests a lack of policy coordination.

Given the potential for miscalculation in the current environment, it is essential that the Administration speak with one voice on an issue directly affecting the future of American security interests in the Asia-Pacific. Therefore, I respectfully request that you reassess the U.S. Government's official policy regarding commercial airline compliance with China's imposition of an ADIZ.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J Randy Forbes".

J. Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress