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**Statement of Rep. James P. McGovern
Co-chair, Congressional-Executive Commission on China**

Hearing on “Corporate Sponsorship of the 2022 Beijing Olympics”

Tuesday, July 27, 2021, 10 a.m.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for convening this timely hearing on Corporate Sponsorship of the 2022 Beijing Olympics.

We hold this hearing as the Summer Games are ongoing in Tokyo. We wish the athletes the best of luck. But the Tokyo Olympics are being held under a cloud. In Japan there is strong domestic opposition to Games held during the COVID crisis. No fans can attend. Some athletes, including Americans Sha'Carri Richardson and Becca Meyers, were denied the ability to compete due to arcane or obsolete rules.

This cloud is so heavy that Toyota, perhaps the best-known Japanese company in the world, pulled its Olympic TV ads to stop its brand image from being tarnished. Its CEO joined executives from Panasonic, NTT, NEC and Fujitsu in choosing not to attend the opening ceremonies in their host country.

In less than seven months, the Winter Olympics are scheduled to take place in China. Unless things change quickly, the Beijing Games will be held under a cloud as well – a different cloud, of genocide, crimes against humanity, gross violations of human rights and denial of religious freedom.

The Congressional-Executive Commission on China has documented these abuses. Our work helped lay the foundation for a legislative response.

In the last three years, we have passed major human rights legislation on the Uyghurs, Tibet, Hong Kong. My CECC colleagues and I are working to pass our Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act.

Both the Trump and Biden Administrations have taken action to respond to Chinese abuses, including a ban on certain imports from Xinjiang made with forced labor and sanctions against complicit Chinese officials.

Congress and the Executive Branch are doing our part. Now we ask you, as American companies, to do your part.

Congress and the Executive Branch are acting because, when it comes to the Chinese government committing atrocities, we do not accept business as usual. Today we ask whether you will treat the Beijing Olympic as business as usual.

As U.S.-based Olympic sponsors, your companies represent America on the world stage. We ask whether you are willing to

stand up for universal values and use your leverage against genocide and crimes against humanity.

Last week, Senators Merkley and Rubio, and Congressman Smith and I, asked the International Olympic Committee to postpone the Beijing Olympics and relocate them if China does not change its behavior.

If we can delay an Olympics for a year for a pandemic – that's what we did in Tokyo -- we can delay it for a year for a genocide.

We received the IOC's response. They said they would do nothing, not even acknowledging the atrocities in China.

Today we ask you, as American companies, if you will stand with human rights principles to take action against the abuses in China. Or will you side with the IOC and do nothing.

We hope you agree that your company's reputational risk -- noting that each your testimonies cited your company's human rights values -- is not worth the association with an Olympics held in the midst of a genocide.

If Toyota can do it, why can't you?

What is particularly galling about the IOC's response is its cold indifference to a genocide. This is not a policy disagreement, this is not a trade dispute, this is not about politics, this is not even a question about a particular system of government. This is about a genocide.

We all appreciate all that your companies contribute to our country and our economy, to provide jobs and all that you produce. But we but we are here because we are genuinely horrified by what is happening. We hope you are too. The question is what you are going to do about it.

Thank you, and I look forward to the testimony.

