

Preamble Amendment

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To amend the preamble.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—118th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. Res. 75

Reaffirming the state of Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory and condemning the People's Republic of China's provocations in South Asia.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. MERKLEY

Viz:

1 Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, since the Sino-Indian war of 1962, the United States has recognized the McMahon Line as the international boundary between the People's Republic of China and the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh;

Whereas the United States recognizes the state of Arunachal Pradesh not as disputed territory but as an integral part of the Republic of India, and this recognition is not qualified in any way;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China claims large portions of Arunachal Pradesh as its own territory, which it calls "South Tibet", and has invoked these claims as part of its increasingly aggressive and expansionist policies;

Whereas, in December 2021, the People's Republic of China's Ministry of Civil Affairs published a detailed map of the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh which assigned Mandarin-language names to 15 geographic features, including eight residential settlements, four mountain peaks, two rivers, and one mountain pass, as well as the names of the administrative regions where each of these are located;

Whereas, in December 2022, People's Republic of China and Indian troops engaged in a skirmish in Arunachal Pradesh along the McMahon Line, the most significant clash in the Eastern Sector of the disputed India-China border in six years;

Whereas the People's Liberation Army disregarded established protocols and engaged in provocative moves in the Western Sector of the disputed India-China border starting in April 2020, including increasing troop deployments, building new infrastructure in contested areas, and harassing Indian patrols, particularly around the Depsang Plains, Galwan Valley, Hot Springs, and Pangong Lake;

Whereas these provocations by the People's Republic of China upended India-China relations and ultimately led to the Galwan Valley clash in June 2020, which resulted in the death of 20 Indian soldiers;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has constructed two villages close to the McMahon Line near Arunachal Pradesh and expanded its territorial claims in Bhutanese territory in the Eastern Sector of the disputed India-China border;

Whereas Arunachal Pradesh contains the Buddhist town of Tawang, home to the revered Tawang Monastery and is the birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama, Tsangyang Gyatso;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has raised diplomatic objections to visits to Arunachal Pradesh by the Dalai Lama and other leaders and has refused to grant residents of the Indian state visas for travel to China;

Whereas the provocations by the People's Republic of China impede poverty alleviation and economic development in Arunachal Pradesh, where nearly 25 percent of the population lives in multidimensional poverty according to India's 2021 National Multidimensional Poverty Index, leading many international donors to be cautious of providing assistance due to the state's misperceived status as disputed territory;

Whereas the Government of India has increased its funding for border infrastructure to improve accessibility in Arunachal Pradesh, as well as for village infrastructure, housing, tourist centers, road connectivity, and decentralized clean energy production through India's Vibrant Villages program;

Whereas the Government of India has taken steps to defend itself from provocations and security threats from the People's Republic of China, including through securing its telecommunications infrastructure and conducting investment screening;

Whereas it is in the interest of the United States to work both bilaterally with India through our Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, as well as multilaterally

through the Quad with Japan and Australia, and through the I2U2 with Israel and the United Arab Emirates; and

Whereas there is significant and continuing progress in the U.S.-India Major Defense Partnership, including ambitions for building an advanced and comprehensive defense partnership in which the Armed Forces of the United States and India coordinate across all domains: Now, therefore, be it