August 3, 2020

Dear Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee:

We are foreign policy professionals, many of whom have served the U.S. government in various capacities over the past few decades. Some of us are Democrats; some Republicans; and others have no partisan affiliation. We write to you today to support the nomination of Kenneth Weinstein to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Japan.

The U.S.-Japan relationship is not just the cornerstone of peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific but has become critical to America’s global strategic posture. During the past twelve months, we have seen China’s increasing crackdown in Hong Kong, growing assertiveness in the East and South China Seas, the global COVID-19 pandemic, as well as an ever more unstable North Korea with its nuclear capacity.

All of us know Ken Weinstein, are familiar with his foreign policy expertise, and believe he has the experience and temperament to be a superb ambassador to Japan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Walter Mondale
Vice President of the United States (1977-81)
U.S. Ambassador to Japan (1993-96)

Dan Quayle
Vice President of the United States (1989-93)

Daniel Coats
United States Senator (2011-17)
Director of National Intelligence (2017-19)

Joseph Lieberman
United States Senator (1989-2013)

Nikki Haley

John V. Roos
U.S. Ambassador to Japan (2009-13)

J. Thomas Schieffer
U.S. Ambassador to Australia (2001-05) and Japan (2005-09)

Dennis Blair
Commander-in-Chief

Stephen Hadley
National Security Advisor to the President (2005-09)

Jason Hyland
Charge d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy
Tokyo (2017)

H.R. McMaster
Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution
National Security Advisor to the President (2017-18)

Kurt Campbell
Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs (2009-13)
Robert M. Kimmitt  
Deputy Secretary of the Treasury (2005-09)  
U.S. Ambassador to Germany (1991-93)  
Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs (1989-91)

Jamie Fly  
Counselor for Foreign and National Security Affairs, Senator Marco Rubio (2013-17)  
Director for Counterproliferation Strategy, National Security Council

Karen Kornbluh  
U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (2009-12)

J. Randy Forbes  
United States Congressman (2001-17)  
Chairman, Seapower and Projection Forces  
Former Distinguished Senior Fellow U.S. Naval War College

Alfred H. Moses  
Special Presidential Envoy (1999-2001)  
U.S. Ambassador to Romania (1994-97)

Kurt Tong  
U.S. Consul General to Hong Kong and Macau (2016-19)

Thomas C. Hubbard  

Randy Schriver  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs (2018-19)

James Burnley IV  
U.S. Secretary of Transportation (1987-89)

Stuart A. Levey  
Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (2004-11)

Charles Rivkin  
U.S. Ambassador to France (2009-13)  
Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State (2014-17)

Joseph S. Nye Jr.  
Distinguished Service Professor, Emeritus, Harvard Kennedy School  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs (1994-95)  
Chair National Intelligence Council (1993-94)

Francis Fukuyama  
Senior Fellow, Stanford University

Nelson Cunningham  
Former Special Advisor to President Bill Clinton

Ryan Crocker  

Michael Green  
Director for Asian Affairs, National Security Council (2001-05)  
Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and Senior Director for Asia

Elbridge Colby  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy and Force Development (2017-18)

Lester Munson  
Staff Director, Senate Foreign Relations Committee (2013-15)
Thomas S. Kahn  
House Budget Committee, Democratic Staff Director (1997-2016)

Craig Kennedy  
Former President, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Vance Serchuk  
National Security Advisor to Senator Joseph Lieberman (2007-10)

Charles Kupchan  
Professor, Georgetown University  
Special Assistant to the President for National Security (2014-17)

Roger Zakheim  
Former General Counsel and Deputy Staff Director of the U.S. House Armed Services Committee and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

James Zumwalt  
U.S. Ambassador to Senegal and Guinea-Bissau (2015-17)

Richard Fontaine  
Foreign Policy Advisor to Senator John McCain (2004-09)

Victor Cha  
Director for Japan and Korea Affairs, National Security Council (2004-07)

Alberto M. Fernandez  
Vice President, Middle East Media Research Institute  
U.S. Ambassador to Equatorial Guinea (2010-12)

Randy Scheunemann  
National Security Adviser to Senate Republican and Majority Leaders Bob Dole and Trent Lott (1993-99)

Chris Brose  
Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace  
Staff Director, U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee (2015-18)

Richard Stengel  
Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs (2014-16)

Jeffrey Gedmin  

Walter Isaacson  
Author

Daniel Twining  
Member, Secretary of State’s Policy Planning Staff (2007-09)  
Foreign Policy Advisor, Senator John McCain (2001-04)

David B. Shear  
Acting Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (2014-17)  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs (2014-16)  
Former Ambassador to Vietnam (2011-14)

Edwin Feulner Jr.  
Founder and Past President  
The Heritage Foundation

Thomas Wright  
The Brookings Institution  
(Signing in personal capacity only)
Jeff Shell  
Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors (2013-17)

Christopher J. LaFleur  
U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia (2004-07)

Marc Ginsberg  
U.S. Ambassador to Morocco (1994-98) and Deputy Senior Adviser to the President for Middle East Affairs (1978-81)

Nancy Lindborg  
Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, USAID (2010-14)