

Dear Chairman Hardy:

I'm writing you in support of the Beijing Olympics float in the 2008 Rose Parade.

I'm a Advisory Board Member of the International Bridge to Justice (www.ibj.org) a human rights (NGO) organization based in Switzerland that is helping China to promote the practice of rule of law. I just came back from my visit to China and learned a great deal about the legal reform of its criminal justice system that's going on there. The bringing about the practice of rule of law is not only necessary but critical to the sustainable political and economic developments of China; and the only way for any external force that can help China to achieve that goal is by sharing our value and experience with them. Of course each society will view human rights and political freedom in terms of its own evolving political circumstances. We better understand that in 1787 the US constitution was drafted and ratified exclusively for the land owners. The voting rights were extended to all white males in 1850, to women in 1920 and to the Blacks in 1965. I strongly believe the bringing the Beijing Olympic float to the Rose Parade is a good example of sharing our values and experiences with hundreds of millions of TV viewers in China who are eagerly looking forward to host the Olympic for the world. The adversary approach in dealing with China will not do anything in helping China to evolve into a society that will practice the rule of law.

I'm writing you on my own behalf and it does not in anyway represent the view of International Bridge to Justice.

I'm sorry that I will not be able to come to your hearing on Tuesday due to a previously committed engagement. However, I'm willing to discuss human rights issues with you at a mutual convenient time.

Regards
Charles Sie
Rancho Palos Verdes

PS: If it is possible I would like to ask the Honorable Lily Chen, the former Mayor of Monterey Park to read this letter for me at your hearing.