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November 16, 2021

The Honorable Michael T. McCaul  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Congressman McCaul:

Thank you for your recent letter of October 27, 2021, regarding Voice of America (VOA) employee Ms. Setareh Sieg. Your letter raises concerns about Ms. Sieg, and I appreciate hearing those concerns. I also am cognizant of Ms. Sieg's status as a career agency employee, and I want to ensure that her employment remains appropriately insulated from political pressures. Indeed, I am especially sensitive to that issue as this agency emerges from the shadow of a period of substantial turmoil, much of which surrounded concern about the apparent politicization of various personnel decisions. I certainly hope you and I agree about each of these background considerations.

In light of your letter and the context of the above, I have directed that my staff forward your concerns to the agency's Office of Human Resources (OHR) with instructions to consider the content of your letter and to take any appropriate investigative and other actions, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. If you or your staff have additional, factual information that would help inform OHR efforts, please provide that information to me, and I will direct my staff to convey it for their professional consideration.

The agency, as appropriate, will share with your office any further action that results in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keluo Chao", written in a cursive style.

Kelu Chao  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

cc: Representative James Comer  
Representative John R. Curtis  
Representative Scott Perry



Representative Guy Reschenthaler  
Representative Lee Zeldin  
Representative Jeff Duncan  
Representative Gregory Meeks  
Representative Gerry Connolly  
Representative Brad Sherman  
Representative Thomas Suozzi  
Representative Betty McCollum  
Senator Robert Menendez  
Senator James Risch  
Acting Department of State Inspector General Diana Shaw  
French Embassy in the U.S.