

To The Falun Dafa Association of New England:

I am proud to write today to congratulate you on your plans to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> annual World Falun Dafa Day on May 10, 2009.

It has been seventeen years since Mr. Li Hongzhi started publicly spreading Falun Dafa to the world community. This powerful spiritual practice that is based on the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance deserves to be commended.

You stand proudly with over one hundred million people who practice Falun Dafa from eighty countries throughout the world. Despite the persecution that continues in China, these beliefs continue to thrive. I have recently become co-chairman of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. Our Commission will continue to promote religious freedom throughout the world.

I regret that I cannot be with you to celebrate, but again please accept my most sincere congratulations.

James P. McGovern Member of Congress

