

California Legislature



SAM BLAKESLEE SENATOR, FIFTEENTH DISTRICT

December 11, 2010

Dear Bay Area Friends Of Tibet:

I am extraordinarily honored and humbled to offer my greetings and best wishes for happiness and harmony to all those celebrating the 25th Annual Tibet Day Fair.

Over a decade ago I was privileged to spend time in Dharamsala, India while visiting my son who was teaching at the Tibetan Children's Village. My experience with the Tibetan people had a lasting impact on me. I saw in the Tibetan people a deep and passionate commitment to preserving a culture that emphasizes a harmonious blend of religion and governance, a culture that is profoundly dedicated to the betterment of its members, yet also a culture that emphasizes respect toward other minorities.

Over 50 years ago, the Tibetan people were confronted with their greatest challenge – the invasion by China – and yet they responded with their greatest strength – an unshakable dedication to nonviolent solutions to international conflicts. The Tibetan people, and His Holiness the Dalai Lama have earned international admiration for their outstanding moral and religious leadership and advocacy.

The persecution that the Tibetan people have endured and their fight to preserve their culture has inspired all of us to remain vigilant in our commitment to defending basic human rights.

Today's event plays an important role in supporting the Tibetan people and their fight to practice their spirituality and retain their rich religious, artistic and cultural traditions.

I commend the dedication of the many people who worked hard to make today's celebration a success, and I thank the Bay Area Friends of Tibet for continuing to work on behalf of the Tibetan community.

Please accept my best wishes for a great event and a wonderful celebration, and know I stand ready to assist you in any way I can.

Your friend,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Blakeslee", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Senator Sam Blakeslee