



August 2, 2018

To Senators Ericksen, Baumgartner; Reps. Buys, MacEwen & Vick:

I am writing to express my concern about your visits to Cambodia, which have left the impression among some that you are attempting to lend credibility to the country's oppressive regime and its sham elections.

As you should be aware, the brutal Hun Sen government that rules Cambodia has received worldwide condemnation. Just this week, [the White House said](#) the flawed elections "were neither free nor fair and failed to represent the will of the Cambodian people." Congress has expressed bipartisan condemnation, with Republican U.S. Senator John McCain [saying](#) it "[robbed] the Cambodian people of their right to freely and fairly choose their leaders."

I am concerned that your status as elected officials could result in the perception that you speak and act as representatives of our state and our nation when, for example, Sen. Erickson is [quoted](#) as saying "it's up to Cambodia to make decisions for how they want to run their country."

Observers in the U.S. are rightly concerned that your visits and public comments give unwarranted credence to this abusive and authoritarian regime. An official at Human Rights Watch [said](#) those who are "flocking to Cambodia" essentially serve no other purpose than "to become cogs in Hun Sen's propaganda machine..."

You can see how your trips raise many questions about the purpose and intent of your efforts in Cambodia, use of your official Washington state titles and whether any public or political campaign funds were used to finance the trips.

Specifically, I believe the residents of Washington and your constituents would appreciate answers to the following questions:

- 1) Who initiated contact with the Hun Sen regime to arrange the trips?
- 2) Was the Cambodian government engaged in discussions about the nature and purpose of the visit, and with whom did you have communications about the trip?
- 3) Who made arrangements for the trip, and who paid for the transportation and expenses while in Cambodia?
- 4) Were you compensated in any way for the visit?
- 5) Did the Hun Sen regime or its surrogates compensate, provide any remuneration – including reimbursement for travel costs, or provide gifts during the trip?
- 6) News reports say some of you met with Prime Minister Hun Sen. What was discussed in that meeting?



- 7) Was contact made with the U.S. Department of State or any official of the U.S. government prior to or following your trip? If so, who did you meet with and what was discussed?
- 8) Was the visit approved or encouraged by the federal government, any political party or organization?
- 9) Did you, [as reported](#), return to Cambodia with a delegation to serve as election observers? If so, what did you observe and to whom did you report?
- 10) Did you do any outreach to the Cambodian community in Washington and understand the impact that your visit has on them and those who have suffered at the hands of the Hun Sen Government?

To be perceived as giving support to the Hun Sen dictatorship demeans the public trust in the positions you hold, brings discredit to our state and does not reflect the values of the people we represent.

I hope you can provide answers to these questions so as to alleviate concerns among Washingtonians.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jay Inslee
Governor