Dear X

The Dalai Lama is due to visit XX in XX – the least that can be expected of our government is that it pays one of the world’s great spiritual leaders and advocates for peace the respect of meeting with him.

President Obama very recently said that the Dalai Lama – a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize - “inspires us to speak up for the freedom and dignity of all human beings”. While Beijing threatens “dire consequences” if political leaders meet the Dalai Lama, research has shown that doing so has no discernible effect on trade with China. Refusing to meet him, however, shows that our government will bow its head to an authoritarian foreign regime. Here is an opportunity to send a signal to the people of Tibet that their suffering under Chinese rule and desire for freedom is understood in our country. Meeting the Dalai Lama would also affirm respect for the path of non-violent resistance Tibetans have chosen and put the principles that guide our democracy and respect for human rights above China’s attempts to impose its will on our country.

Yours etc