

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 15, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

I hope this letter finds you well.

I write to encourage the swift nomination of an Ambassador to the Republic of Korea (ROK).

The U.S.-ROK alliance is strong and it is vital to international peace and security. In my view, it is urgent that we have in place a Senate-confirmed ambassador to represent the United States, implement U.S. foreign policy from our embassy in Seoul, and strengthen our relationship with the ROK.

Last month, I met in the ROK with South Korean diplomatic, political, and industrial leaders. I met with U.S. business leaders working in the ROK, as well as with South Korean youth to gain their perspective on U.S.-ROK relations. I also inspected U.S. military facilities and consulted our military leadership in the ROK.

My visit affirmed that U.S.-ROK cooperation is strong. Our trade, diplomatic, and military-to-military relations are robust. We should also endeavor to strengthen them further. And while the United States has been ably served for the past 11 months by our Embassy team, the swift appointment and Senate confirmation of an ambassador will reinforce our commitment to this alliance and enhance the impact of our Embassy's daily efforts.

I write this letter from the perspective of a U.S. Senator representing the State of Georgia, which has a significant and growing trading relationship with the Republic of Korea. Georgia is a major destination for South Korean Foreign Direct Investment, including major employers in strategic industries such as batteries, renewable energy, and autos. Kia Corporation, SK Battery, and Hanwha Q Cells, have a significant footprint in Georgia, employ thousands of Georgians, and represent billions of dollars of investment in the United States. During my recent official visit, I worked to recruit additional future South Korean investment in Georgia and the United States. We need a permanent ambassador to support our collective efforts to strengthen these commercial ties in industries critical to U.S. national security, energy independence, and sustainability.

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CHAIR, PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON INVESTIGATIONS

OSSOFF.SENATE.GOV

I appreciate that the Administration has engaged the ROK at the highest level and that it was the destination of Secretary of State Blinken's and Secretary of Defense Austin's first overseas trip in March. I respectfully urge that these high-level engagements should be followed with the nomination of an ambassador that the Senate can consider promptly in the new year.

I thank you for your attention to this request. I am standing by to assist your team with this effort in any way I can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ossoff", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator