



For immediate release

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COMMITTEE OF 100 PRINCIPLES OF GUIDANCE FOR POLITICAL CANDIDATES ON CHINA-RELATED ISSUES

(Washington, D.C.—June 27, 2012)—The Committee of 100, an organization of Chinese American leaders, today released Principles of Guidance for political candidates on China related issues.

The United States is an exceptional nation. Our diverse democracy upholds the greatest ideals of belonging for people of all backgrounds and thrives on an electoral process that allows everyone to participate as equals.

The United States and its voters are facing important issues related to China. Our concerns include potential outsourcing of jobs, trade balances, currency valuation, environmental protection, and human rights. Robust discussion about the Chinese government and Chinese companies is to be expected and should be welcomed. The American people have many different opinions that help develop the best policies.

However, the use of racial images, mocking of Asian languages, characterizations of Asians as a group, and other crude stereotyping is a different matter. It has a direct, immediate and negative effect on the loyal community of Chinese Americans, and, more generally, Asian Americans. The more than 17 million citizens and permanent residents of Asian ancestry, among whom the largest group is of Chinese heritage, hold the same aspiration as do all Americans: the opportunity to succeed and contribute to society. Thus we ask that all candidates as well as their campaigns refrain from China-bashing that does more harm than good.

Instead, a discussion of serious issues based on the facts will inspire us to make good on our strengths. Chinese Americans have much to add to constructive debate about the best course for America.

We ask that our friends who are pursuing the many offices throughout the land – local, state and federal – be conscious of the risk that rhetorical attacks on China historically have led to real attacks on Chinese Americans and other Asian Americans. Chinese Americans have been here for more than five generations, including not only those who have arrived more recently but also those who are adopted or who have intermarried.

Like other Americans, Chinese Americans are affected by our relationship to China. Unfortunately, we often are perceived wrongly as responsible for the attitudes and actions of a foreign government and multinational corporations. Indeed, there already has been racially-charged advertising that impacts Chinese Americans.

The Committee of 100 is confident that by working together, we will be able to respect differences while seeking common ground. We will become the better for it.

Dominic Ng, Committee of 100 Chairman said: “The state of U.S.-China relations affects Americans of all backgrounds. We encourage all political candidates to conduct constructive debates on China-related issues during election campaigns and to avoid using racially-based stereotypes. The tragic death of Vincent Chin 30 years ago should remind us to respect all Americans and appreciate that our diverse backgrounds contribute to this country’s greatness.”

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The Committee of 100 is a non-partisan leadership organization of prominent Chinese Americans in business, government, academia, and the arts, representing a wide spectrum of political viewpoints. For over 20 years, the Committee has served as a substantive bridge in the U.S.- China dialogue by fostering regular exchanges with the leadership of Beijing, Taipei, and Washington. Members of the Committee of 100 are leading U.S. citizens of Chinese descent who leverage their collective influence, resources and experiences to address important topics shaping U.S.-China relations as well as issues affecting the Chinese American community.

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