

Frank Martin  
President



美國  
商會

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Mr. Gordon Siu  
Secretary for Planning and Lands  
Planning and Lands Bureau  
9/F Murray Building  
Garden Road  
Hong Kong

Dear Gordon:

We note that the Hong Kong government has produced an outline zoning plan for Tai Long Wan, which the Hong Kong Tourist Association acknowledged to be the "jewel in the crown" of Sai Kung Peninsula. After public objections to the new zoning plan for Tai Long Wan last autumn, the government postponed further hearings until it can further study the area's architecture and archeology and ecological and conservation value. The American Chamber of Commerce would like to see this -- and indeed all -- government planning processes made as open as possible for public consultation, as early as possible.

Tai Long Wan is undoubtedly one of Hong Kong's treasures. The Hong Kong Tourist Association has noted that many overseas visitors have recalled their nature walks there as the highlight of their visit to Hong Kong. Some return to Hong Kong to hike in the secluded area again. Tai Long Wan is highly biodiverse and its unspoiled, scenic beauty, rural nature and rare ecosystem could be overwhelmed by construction of villas and apartments and a road system to develop a new and growing population.

The OZP, as aired last autumn, would significantly zone some of Tai Long Wan for small house developments. We urge a reconsideration of this and a reexamination of a central issue facing Hong Kong: how land-use planning might maximize use of existing urban areas and preserve remaining natural areas for long-term sustainable development.

We understand that public objections brought to the Town Planning Board in November 2000 led the Board to postpone its final decision. While relevant government bodies are still studying Tai Long Wan's ecological value, architecture and archeology, and a possible conservation policy, we still do not know when public discussion might be reopened. We ask that the Planning and Lands Bureau preserve Tai Long Wan as a key part of Hong Kong's natural heritage, and promote openness in this and all planning processes.

Best regards,

