



# Homeland Security

April 1, 2024

The Honorable Neal P. Dunn, M.D  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Dunn:

Thank you for your November 30, 2023, letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). I am responding on behalf of the Department.

As you note, a foreign citizen generally must obtain a visa to enter the United States, including its territories. However, Public Law 110-229, the *Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008* (CNRA), established the Guam-Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Visa Waiver Program codified at *Immigration and Nationality Act* § 212(l). The CNRA requires DHS to identify countries from which the CNMI receives a “significant economic benefit” from the number of visitors for pleasure within the year preceding enactment. The Department determined the People’s Republic of China (PRC) met this economic threshold in 2009.

Pursuant to the authority under the CNRA, as of October 3, 2019, PRC nationals may travel to the CNMI without a visa for the purpose of a temporary visit for business or pleasure for up to 14 days; they are not authorized for employment. Individuals without a visa are not authorized to travel to other parts of the United States, including Guam. When these individuals are encountered at CNMI airports, U.S. Customs and Border Protection will prohibit their onward travel to other U.S. destinations.

DHS remains vigilant in its screening and vetting duties, which focus on rooting out exploitation of our immigrant and nonimmigrant visa processes, including by identifying, and where necessary denying entry to, high-risk travelers.

DHS respectfully defers to the Department of State for any questions or concerns regarding B-1 or B-2 visa issuance.

Thank you again for your letter. The cosigners of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please have your staff contact the DHS Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 447-5890.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Z. Buetow', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Zephrairie Buetow  
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs