



June 24, 2011

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Department of State
2201 C Street, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary of State Clinton:

As a former United States Senator from New York, and as U.S. Secretary of State, we are confident you will understand the importance of this matter.

Lu Ming Kui, one of the three eaters representing China in the Fourth of July Hot Dog Eating Contest in Coney Island, is struggling to secure a visa, and we fear that it will reflect poorly on the United States if he is unable to compete.

In particular, we fear that the international community will interpret his absence as an unsportsmanlike effort to prevent China from winning one of America's most treasured symbols of July 4th – the coveted mustard yellow hot dog-eating belt.

It is also possible that this incident could be cited as a form of protectionism, further complicating recent disputes on this issue.

We would greatly appreciate any assistance your office could provide in this matter, which is scheduled for further discussion in Beijing on Monday, June 27.

As an aside, we at Major League Eating and the International Federation of Competitive Eating appreciate all your efforts on behalf of our nation, and our full resources are at your disposal if we can ever be of service.

Thank you, and please don't hesitate to call us at 212 352-8651 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

George Shea
Chair, IFOCE