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# SAVE International

## (Spoonbill Action Voluntary Echo)

A Project of Earth Island Institute

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Mayor CHEN, Ju  
Office of the Mayor  
Kaohsun, Taiwan

August 13, 2013

Dear Mayor Chen:

I am writing to urge you not to build Road 1-4 through the Jiading Wetlands. Although I understand that you promised to build this road when you were running for mayor, I hope that the following information will convince you to change your mind and show you that it will be better for Kaohsun if you do not build the road.

SAVE International is dedicated to preserving the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*), a species of bird that migrates every year between Taiwan, mainland China, Japan, Korea, and several other countries in east Asia. We have been involved in planning and policy in Taiwan since 1997, when we helped stop the proposed Binnan Industrial Complex from being built at Chigu Lagoon. We used a combination of land-planning, science, and democratic design to create a sustainable alternative plan that benefits people, spoonbills, and the larger ecosystem. Since then, we have continued to be active in Taiwan, Japan, and Korea. We help people to see that healthy wetlands and habitat for spoonbills are good for the economy as well as for the environment.

As you may realize, Black-faced Spoonbills have had a lot to do with the success of the Southwest Coast National Scenic Area and the tourism-based businesses in Tainan, Chiayi and Yunlin counties. You may know about these spoonbills if you have seen them at Jiading or seen their pictures on the Taiwanese passport. People all over Taiwan recognize these rare and beautiful birds and are proud of what their leaders and fellow citizens have been doing to protect this endangered bird and its habitat.

This past winter, 154 individual Black-faced Spoonbills lived at the Jiading Wetlands, as did many other birds and other wildlife. Under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, any site that supports more than 1% of the population of a species is a "wetland of international importance". The 154 spoonbills at the Jiading Wetlands were more than 5% of the world population of roughly 2,700, so Jiading deserves the strong protection that the Ramsar Convention suggests.

Black-faced Spoonbills are shy around humans and require large areas of open water to feel safe, however, so you will risk scaring away the spoonbills if you build Road 1-4. The total area of the Jiading Wetlands is roughly 180 hectares, and although Roads 1-1 and 1-6 have already divided the wetlands into a few smaller pieces, the large remaining northeastern piece (80 hectares) is still large enough to be valuable habitat. Road 1-4 would run right through the middle of this large piece and would make it much worse as habitat for spoonbills. The spoonbills that lived at Jiading last year might crowd together in smaller areas or might move to a new place, but overcrowding makes birds vulnerable to diseases such as botulism, which killed 70 spoonbills in Taiwan several years ago.

The proposal to build Road 1-4 deserves careful analysis, according to the national standards for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). As you know, the national legislature recently passed the strong Taiwan Wetland Law, after a debate of ten years. Starting in January 2014, roads proposed through wetlands, such as Road 1-4, will be subject to these national standards. I am sure that a

thorough EIA would reveal the unacceptable impacts of Road 1-4. Although you could build Road 1-4 now without an EIA that meets the national standards, you would miss an important opportunity to preserve the Jiading Wetlands and be a proactive leader.

It is our understanding that Road 1-4 is not needed as people could simply use other roads to get around the Jiading Wetlands. Road 1-4 might save people a few minutes of driving time, but you would lose much more value from your environment than you would gain in convenience.

You have already shown that you are a champion of environmental and progressive social causes, such as providing funds for several wetland parks in Kaohsun. I hope that you will continue your record of good policies by changing your mind about Road 1-4 and doing what is best for the people of Kaohsun and the environment.

If you have any questions for me or my colleagues at SAVE International, please do not hesitate to ask. I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

Derek Schubert  
President, SAVE International

親愛的陳市長，

我在這裡寫信給您，呼籲您停止茄苳溼地 1-4 號公路的開闢。我理解建設這條公路是您競選的承諾之一，但是我真誠的希望您在您仔細考慮過以下的事實之後，能夠理解到停止這條公路的建設對高雄市民來說是比較好的選擇。

SAVE International (國際黑面琵鷺保護聯盟) 是一個致力於保護黑面琵鷺這個瀕臨絕種物種的國際環保組織。在台灣，我們自 1997 年開始就積極介入阻擋濱南工業區在七股潟湖的開發。我們擅長結合土地規劃，科學以及民主設計以創造永續經營的，並且對居民，鳥類及整個生態體系都有益處的替代方案。在台灣以外的地區，我們同時在韓國，日本及中國大陸都積極參與黑面琵鷺的保育工作。在每個不同的案例當中，SAVE 都能成功的說服當地居民及政府理解保育溼地及黑面琵鷺會帶來經濟上及生態上的雙重利益。

您或許已經了解到，黑面琵鷺是目前台灣的台江國家公園能夠成功，也是雲嘉南濱海地區吸引遊客的最重要因素。您本人或許也曾在茄苳或台南見過這種如今已是台灣家戶曉，並已成為台灣生態保育重要象徵的物種。我們理解到台灣的人民熱愛黑面琵鷺，自然也會支持並以盡力保護黑面琵鷺的政治人物為傲。

今年冬天，光在茄苳地區就有 154 隻黑面琵鷺，以及其他更多的棲息性及遷徙性鳥類被記錄。根據聯合國溼地組織 RAMSAR 的會章規定，只要出現過百分之一的瀕臨絕種鳥類的溼地就應該被記錄為"有國際性價值的溼地"，並應接受 RAMSAR 的保護和監督。茄苳的黑面琵鷺已經遠超過黑面琵鷺總量的百分之五，理應受聯合國的監控及保護。

黑面琵鷺是一種極其敏感，必須靠一定面積水域保護，遠離人類活動及車輛的鳥類。雖然完整的茄苳濕地已經不幸被 1-1 及 1-6 公路切割，但至少現在北面仍是完整，足夠起到保護作用的溼地。1-4 公路將北面棲地攔腰切斷，將使棲地情況嚴重惡化。黑面琵鷺很可能永遠不再到茄苳濕地落脚，或是因為過度拥挤而产生感染，如同數年前在台南七股發生的情形一樣。

根據我們的了解，台灣在多年的努力下終於通過了溼地法。根據溼地法的規定，1-4 號公路建設完全符合溼地法要求通過台灣國家級環評的條件。雖然因為現階段溼地法尚未實施，您或許可以繞道不經過國家級環評，只實施地方級環評，但您卻會因此失去一個對於致力於環境保護而有積極作為的領導者的機會。1-4 號道路完全可以被現有替代道路取代。興建 1-4 公路也許能讓駕駛者節省幾分鐘的時間，卻會使得高雄市失去一塊世界級的溼地，以及讓您失去生態保護者的美名。我們理解在

您擔任高雄市長的任期內，您致力於溼地的保育工作，提供經費並指定了數個溼地公園。我們實在不忍看到您長時間的努力在這一條沒有必要存在的公路建設上毀於一旦。

我們誠摯的希望您能夠主導停止 1-4 公路的建設。如果您有任何疑問，或是想與國際黑面琵鷺救援聯盟聯繫的話，請您不吝與我聯繫。

期待聽到您的回音

充滿尊敬的，

Derek Schubert

國際黑面琵鷺救援聯盟主席