Dear Editor,

Your editorial titled “Spelling out Hong Kong’s doom” dated June 23, 2020 reflects a misunderstanding of the proposed national security law in Hong Kong.

Safeguarding national security is essential to building a stable and safe society. Different countries have enacted their own laws to safeguard national security. The proposed national security legislation for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is only intended to supplement the inadequacy of existing laws to safeguard national security by preventing, curbing and sanctioning four types of criminal acts, namely acts of secession, subversion of state power, terrorist activities, and collusion with foreign or external forces to endanger national security. It will only target an extremely small minority of people who have breached the law on those offenses, while the life and property, basic rights and freedoms of the overwhelming majority of Hong Kong people will be protected.

Hong Kong people will continue to enjoy the legitimate rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Basic Law and the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance, including those concerning speech, assembly, demonstration, communication and religion. Judicial independence and Hong Kong’s core values will be fully protected. A number of important principles in line with the rule of law, including presumption of innocence and protection of the rights of the suspect will also be followed in the national security law.

In the long run, the national security law will create favorable conditions for strengthening the foundation of the successful implementation of “one country, two systems” and ensuring the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

Sincerely,
Joanne Chu
Director
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, New York