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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY
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September 19, 2023

The Honorable Lloyd Austin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Secretary Austin and Director Wray,

We are alarmed by recent reports suggesting that citizens of the People's Republic of China (PRC) may have attempted to commit more than one hundred acts of espionage at military bases and other sensitive locations throughout the United States. There is a growing trend of persons working on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to obtain sensitive information about America's military, economic, and technological secrets. We write today to request further details regarding these concerning reports and what measures the Department of Defense (DoD) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are taking to safeguard America's most sensitive sites, identify these agents, and protect the country from CCP espionage.

Recent reporting by the *Wall Street Journal* indicates that citizens of the PRC have gained or attempted to access military bases and other sensitive sites at least one hundred times over the past few years.¹ In one case, potential agents infiltrated a U.S. Army test range, accessed numerous missile sites, and used drone technology to surveil the grounds.² In another case, individuals were found scuba diving in a location home to a launch site for U.S. spy satellites and other sensitive military equipment.³ Indeed, these incidents are not limited to military sites.

¹ Gordon Lubold, Warren P. Strobel & Aruna Viswanatha, *Chinese Gate-Crashers at U.S. Bases Spark Espionage Concerns*, WALL ST. JOURNAL (Sep. 4, 2023) available at www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/chinese-gate-crashers-at-u-s-bases-spark-espionage-concerns-cdef8187.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

There are also ongoing efforts to collect intelligence on the White House—including its layout, security, and communications equipment.⁴

These espionage efforts come on the heels of recent high-profile acts of espionage by the CCP against the United States. In January, a Chinese spy balloon—which was “capable of conducting signals intelligence collection operations”⁵—traversed the United States, collecting intelligence on several highly sensitive military sites. Prior to her trip to Beijing in August, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and several other senior U.S. officials were hacked by individuals in China.⁶

In order to better understand how the DoD and FBI are protecting against these threats to U.S. military sites, we respectfully request that you provide the Select Committee with a classified briefing as soon as possible but no later than October 6, 2023.

Additionally, it has been reported that the Pentagon “has conducted several base security reviews since 2018,” and a “review done late last year focused on the physical security of the roughly 1,400 gates at the U.S. military’s bases, as well as other aspects of base security.”⁷ We respectfully request that you provide the Select Committee with all documents related to these security reviews as soon as possible but no later than October 6, 2023.

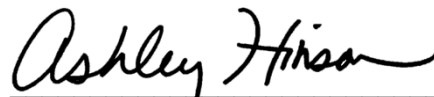
The House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party has broad authority to “investigate and submit policy recommendations on the status of the Chinese Communist Party’s economic, technological, and security progress and its competition with the United States” under H. Res. 11.

To make arrangements to deliver a response and schedule a briefing, please contact Select Committee staff at (202) 226-9678. We appreciate in advance your timely response to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Mike Gallagher
Chairman



Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress

⁴ *Supra*, n. 1.

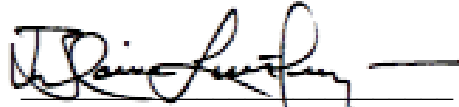
⁵ Alexander Ward & Matt Berg, *U.S. to explore punishing China over spy balloon, official says*, POLITICO (Feb. 9, 2023) available at www.politico.com/news/2023/02/09/u-s-to-explore-punishing-china-over-spy-balloon-official-says-00082015.

⁶ Ana Swanson, *Commerce Secretary to Visit China Next Week in Bid to Steady Ties*, N.Y. TIMES (Aug. 22, 2023) available at www.nytimes.com/2023/08/22/business/economy/gina-raimondo-china.html.

⁷ *Supra*, n. 1.




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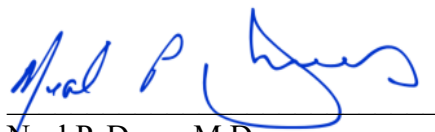
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



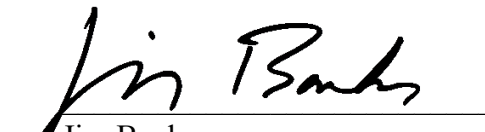
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