

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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September 30, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

During the 118th Congress, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability (Committee) has conducted a government-wide investigation of how federal agencies are addressing the infiltration and influence campaign to weaken and corrupt the United States undertaken by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). This infiltration and influence tactic is one facet of a larger cold war the CCP utilizes in its unrestricted warfare against America, which the CCP considers its “main enemy.”¹ During its briefings with over twenty federal agencies in its investigation,

¹ Constantine C. Menges, *China: The Gathering Threat* (2005); Kerry K. Gershaneck, *Political Warfare: Strategies for Combating China’s Plan to “Win without Fighting”*, at 151 (2020) (“The PRC is engaged in war against the United States. It is not mere competition or malign influence, but war by PRC definition.”); Grant Newsham, *When China Attacks: A Warning to America*, at 60 (2023) (The CCP “seeks global domination” and “will fight its main enemy, the United States, to achieve it.”); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight and Accountability, to Amanda Bennett, Chief Exec. Officer, U.S. Agency for Global Media (Mar. 13, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. William J. Burns, Dir., Cent. Intelligence Agency (July 18, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight and Accountability, to Hon. Alexander Hoehn-Saric, Chair, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Comm’n (May 6, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Anne Milgram, Administrator, Drug Enforcement Admin. (Mar. 13, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Christopher Wray, Dir., Federal Bureau of Investigation (May 6, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Willie L. Phillips, Chairman, Fed. Energy Regulatory Comm’n (Mar. 13, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Andrea Gacki, Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (Mar. 13, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Bill Nelson, Adm’r, Nat’l Aeronautics and Space Admin. (Mar. 13, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Monica M. Bertagnolli, Dir., Nat’l Insts. of Health (May 6, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Avril Haines, Dir., Office of the Dir. of Nat’l Intelligence (May 6, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Thomas J. Vilsack, Sec’y, U.S. Dep’t of Agriculture (Mar. 13, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight and Accountability, to Hon. Gina Raimondo, Sec’y, U.S. Dep’t of Commerce (May 6, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Lloyd Austin, Sec’y, Dep’t of Def. (June 21, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Miguel A. Cardona, Sec’y, Dep’t of Educ. (May 6, 2024); Letter from Hon.

the Committee has learned of the emphasis the CCP has placed on influencing subnational government leaders, including state governors.² Along those lines, the Committee has recently received whistleblower disclosures informing the Committee of serious concern among Department of Homeland Security (DHS) personnel regarding a longstanding connection between the CCP and Minnesota Governor Timothy James Walz. Specifically, through whistleblower disclosures, the Committee has learned of a non-classified, Microsoft Teams group chat among DHS employees—titled “NST NFT Bi-Weekly Sync”—that contains information about Governor Walz that is relevant to the Committee’s investigation. The Committee has also learned that further relevant information regarding Governor Walz has been memorialized in both classified and unclassified documents in the control of DHS. The attached subpoena requires DHS to produce these documents and communications regarding Governor Walz’s connections with the CCP; this subpoena is issued pursuant to Rule XI.2(m)(1)(B) of the Rules of the House of Representatives and Rule 12(g) of the Committee’s rules.

The Committee’s investigation of the CCP—begun long before Governor Walz was elevated to be the vice-presidential candidate for Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris—seeks to understand the extent of the CCP’s infiltration and influence campaign and to identify legislative reforms to combat CCP political warfare targeting prominent Americans for elite capture.³ In particular, if a state governor and major political party’s nominee for Vice President of the United States has been a witting or unwitting participant in the CCP’s efforts to weaken our nation, this would strongly suggest that there are alarming weaknesses in the federal government’s effort to defend the United States from the CCP’s political warfare that must be urgently addressed. Along those lines, the Committee is currently considering legislative

James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Jennifer Granholm, Sec’y, Dep’t of Energy (May 6, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec’y, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec. (July 18, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Merrick A. Garland, Attorney General, Dep’t of Justice (Mar. 13, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Antony Blinken, Sec’y, Dep’t of State (May 6, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Pete Buttigieg, Sec’y, U.S. Dep’t of Transportation (June 21, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Janet Yellen, Sec’y, Dep’t of Treasury (July 18, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Robert M. Califf, Comm’r, Food and Drug Admin. (May 6, 2024); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Robert M. Califf, Comm’r, U.S. Food and Drug Admin. (Mar. 28, 2023); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight and Accountability, to Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, National Security Council (Aug. 20, 2024); *see also Defending America from the Chinese Communist Party’s Political Warfare, Part I*, Hearing Before H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability (Apr. 17, 2024); *Defending America from the Chinese Communist Party’s Political Warfare, Part II*, Hearing Before H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability (June 26, 2024); *Defending America from the Chinese Communist Party’s Political Warfare, Part III*, Hearing Before H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability (Sept. 24, 2024).

² *See, e.g.*, Nat’l Counterintelligence and Sec. Ctr., Safeguarding Our Future: Protecting Government and Business Leaders at the U.S. State and Local Level from People’s Republic of China (PRC) Influence Operations, Off. of the Dir. of Nat’l Intelligence (July 6, 2022); Emily de La Bruyère & Nathan Picarsic, *All over the Map, The Chinese Communist Party’s Subnational Interests in the United States*, Found. for Defense of Democracies (Nov. 15, 2021).

³ *See, e.g.*, General Spalding described elite capture as “the perfect strategy: promise your enemy short-term profits, and enlist them to help make your country the most powerful in the world.” Robert Spalding, *Stealth War*, at 17 (2019).

Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas

September 30, 2024

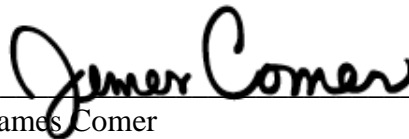
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solutions to ameliorate deficiencies it already has identified among government agencies' strategies to combat CCP political warfare. The information required of DHS by the Committee's subpoena will inform the Committee's understanding of how successful the CCP has been in waging political warfare in and against the United States, how effectively federal agencies are addressing the communist regime's campaign, and what reforms are necessary to counter this threat.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. If you have any questions regarding this subpoena, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5074.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important investigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "C".

James Comer

Chairman

Committee on Oversight and Accountability

cc: The Honorable Jamie B. Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability