

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074  
MINORITY (202) 225-5051  
<https://oversight.house.gov>

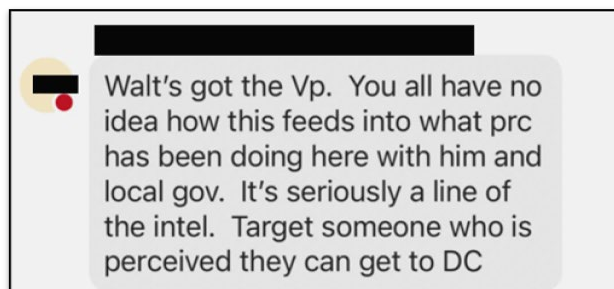
October 29, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability (Committee) is following up on its subpoena to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS or Department)—duly issued on September 30, 2024—seeking documents, communications, and intelligence reports in DHS’s possession related to Minnesota Governor Timothy Walz’s connections to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).<sup>1</sup>

DHS has been unresponsive to the subpoena. Because of DHS’s lack of compliance with the Committee’s legal subpoena and unwillingness to cooperate in good faith, the Committee is releasing a small portion of the Department’s internal communications it received from a whistleblower. The information shows DHS officials with subject matter expertise discussing, on the same day Vice President Kamala Harris selected Governor Walz as her running mate, the CCP’s targeting of Governor Walz:



The Committee is releasing the above message as an example of communications within DHS’s possession in which DHS officials express concern about the CCP targeting politicians and their influence operations at the state and local levels—and specifically, concerns about the

---

<sup>1</sup> Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec’y, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Security (Sept. 30, 2024).

CCP's influence operations as they relate to Governor Walz. This particular message was communicated in a Microsoft Teams group chat amongst DHS employees entitled "NST NFT Bi-Weekly Sync," the same chat identified in the Committee's subpoena. A whistleblower has provided further information to the Committee that indicates officials from DHS's Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) have been involved in the Department's investigative and/or intelligence work connected with the CCP, the state of Minnesota, and Governor Walz.

The Committee's concerns surrounding CCP elite capture operations seeking to influence public officials like Governor Walz have intensified given recent reports about Governor Walz's extensive travel history, unusual interactions in the People's Republic of China,<sup>2</sup> and recent inability to answer basic questions about his involvement in China.<sup>3</sup>

DHS's unwillingness to cooperate with a Congressional subpoena seeking information on this subject of importance to the American people raises more questions. The Committee's September 30, 2024 subpoena was tailored to only require the following specific information from DHS, including its Office of Intelligence and Analysis:

1. All documents and communications in the Microsoft Teams group chat "NST NFT Bi-Weekly Sync" from July 1, 2024, to present, including all accompanying, uploaded, or imbedded attachments and documents, referring or relating to Minnesota Governor Timothy J. Walz (or the office and/or staff of Governor Walz); and
2. All Intelligence Information Reports and Regional Intelligence Notes (including these documents that have been titled or categorized differently) from November 2023 to present related to Minnesota Governor Timothy J. Walz (or the office and/or staff of Governor Walz).<sup>4</sup>

On October 7, 2024, the due date of the subpoena, DHS provided a wholly unresponsive letter stating the Department "remains committed to engaging with the Committee in good faith."<sup>5</sup> Notably, DHS did not produce responsive documents before the subpoena's due date and subsequently neglected to produce a single responsive document.

After receiving DHS's unresponsive letter, the Committee sought an update from DHS about its response to the subpoena and production of the requested documents and communications. It took two weeks for DHS to agree to schedule a phone call with the

---

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Christopher Wray, Dir., Fed. Bureau of Investigation (Aug. 16, 2024).

<sup>3</sup> Elaine Godfrey, *You're Killing Me, Walz*, The Atlantic (Oct. 2, 2024) (discussing Walz's "failure to provide a coherent, succinct correction" for discrepancies in his statements regarding his visits to China when asked at the October 1, 2024 vice presidential debate).

<sup>4</sup> Schedule to Subpoena from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Security (Sept. 30, 2024).

<sup>5</sup> Letter from Zephrañie Buetow, Assistant Sec'y for Legislative Affairs, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Security, to Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability (Oct. 7, 2024).

Committee. On October 21, 2024, DHS's Senior Advisor of the Department's Office of Legislative Affairs spoke with the Committee but offered no substantive information, nor any assurance that substantive information would be forthcoming. During the October 21 phone call, DHS was unwilling to articulate an accommodation request, to provide any information about DHS's response to the subpoena, to state whether its office had obtained the requested documents, or to assert whether or not DHS intends to provide the Committee with any information at all. DHS's response was anything but "good faith." DHS has been wholly unresponsive, and the Committee is considering all available options.

The Committee's investigation into CCP political warfare has revealed CCP elite capture efforts designed to influence policy and decision-making by co-opting leaders and officials at the state and local government levels.<sup>6</sup> Specifically, the CCP "views subnational officials as future leaders," who can "influence U.S. economic, technological, and other ecosystems."<sup>7</sup> Federal agencies must be vigilant in identifying, countering, and deterring CCP elite capture. It appears to the Committee that DHS officials are specifically concerned about Governor Walz's involvement with the PRC, but that DHS leadership is covering up such concerns by refusing to produce related documents and communications.

The subpoena consisted of a limited request. If DHS believes negotiation or additional accommodations are necessary, it failed to relay this information when the Committee inquired. DHS's refusal to deliver these documents to the Committee raises serious concerns about the Department's fulfillment of its mission to resolutely protect the nation's homeland.<sup>8</sup> The documents covered by the Committee's subpoena will inform the Committee's understanding of CCP political warfare against the United States and how effectively federal agencies are countering the communist regime's infiltration operations. The Committee expects DHS to promptly respond with a substantive production of documents.

Additionally, the Committee requests that Jacob Marx, Senior Advisor of the Department's Office of Legislative Affairs, make himself available for a transcribed interview with Committee staff. To arrange the transcribed interview, please contact either Jake Greenberg or Margaret Harker with the Committee at (202) 225-5074 by November 4, 2024.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate, "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important investigation.

---

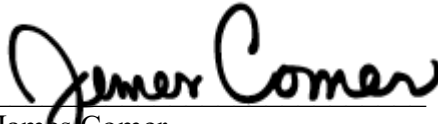
<sup>6</sup> Webinar, *Xi's United Front: A Damage Assessment on the CCP's "Elite Capture"*, The Comm. on the Present Danger: China (Aug. 22, 2024) (statement of Sam Faddis) (Elite capture seeks out "anybody of influence in society," and co-opts these leaders to "do China's bidding to further [the CCP's] interests.").

<sup>7</sup> Emily de La Bruyère & Nathan Picarsic, *All Over the Map: The Chinese Communist Party's Subnational Interests in the United States*, The Found. for Defense of Democracies, at 7 (2021).

<sup>8</sup> See U.S. Dep't of Homeland Security, Mission (last accessed Oct. 22, 2024).

Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas  
October 29, 2024  
Page 4 of 4

Sincerely,

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

James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

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