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BY EMAIL & U.S. MAIL

Attorney General Pamela Bondi
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

Environmental lawfare poses a growing challenge for American industry and the American consumer because it drives up energy costs, as President Trump noted in recent executive orders. It also weakens our national security and places us at a strategic disadvantage with our adversaries in China.

I recently testified before the United States Senate on this topic at a hearing entitled “Enter The Dragon—China and the Left’s Lawfare Against American Energy Dominance.”¹ As the Attorney General of Kansas, I focused my testimony on Kansas litigation focused on protecting our economy and our consumers against a campaign of environmental lawfare designed to cripple American energy production. However, the hearing also included dramatic disclosures about how the environmental lawfare campaign appears to be receiving significant financial support from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Senator Cruz aptly summarized the problem at the hearing: “Foreign money from entities tied to the CCP flows into the United States to bankroll climate advocacy groups who litigate against American energy.”² The hearing laid out the ways that the Energy Foundation China (EFC) funds and encourages environmental groups to file climate litigation and to advocate for statutes that weaken American energy producers and hurt consumers. Sen. Cruz stated that the EFC recently injected millions into domestic advocacy groups like the Natural Resources Defense Council in support of litigation and messaging that targets domestic energy industries. The EFC claims to be a nonprofit headquartered in San Francisco, but its staff is concentrated in Beijing and has close ties to the CCP. Not surprisingly, the EFC appears to support actions that align with China’s strategic interest in boosting alternative energy production systems in which China controls crucial supply chains for necessary minerals, batteries, solar panels, and other energy technologies.

¹ <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/enter-the-dragonchina-and-the-lefts-lawfare-against-american-energy-dominance>

² <https://www.eenews.net/articles/cruz-sees-chinese-influence-in-climate-lawsuits-2/>

This CCP connection—centered around the EFC—places a whole new lens over the climate lawfare campaign occurring in U.S. courts. It is one thing to watch left-wing law firms and non-profits use laws designed to impose extraterritorial burdens to advance their radical policy interests in the courtrooms of America to the detriment of our consumers and our economy; but when such legal actions are tied to China, it likely reveals a foreign adversarial attack on American energy independence.³

The Senate hearing exposed that China's ongoing asymmetric campaign against the United States extends to our nation's courtrooms and state legislatures, and that the EFC plays a central role in that campaign. It is also clear that groups like the EFC use their influence campaigns to target our major universities, folding our higher education establishment into the environmental lawfare apparatus.

With this in mind, I respectfully urge the Department of Justice to open an investigation into the actions of the EFC in America, including its ties to climate lawfare in the courts. The Senate hearing and a report from State Armor shed light on the EFC's activities and revealed the role that the CCP is playing in the ongoing campaign of environmental lawfare in the United States.⁴ However, it is important to learn the full extent of the CCP's reach into the ongoing campaign of environmental lawfare in our state and federal courts. Multiple federal laws are designed to stop inappropriate foreign influence, misdirection, and economic sabotage like this.

In the event that the Department of Justice opens probes into the EFC or related efforts to inappropriately use environmental lawfare to reshape our economy in a way that benefits the CCP, my office will do all that we can to cooperate with your personnel, as would many of my state attorney general colleagues. We are intent on stopping this campaign of environmental lawfare, no matter where it is being waged, and are likewise committed to stopping the CCP from undermining the American economy and the American consumer.

If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Kris W. Kobach
Kansas Attorney General

cc:

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Deputy Attorney General of the United States

Mr. Benjamin C. Mizer
Acting Associate Attorney General of the United States

³ <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/29618a0d-bcc1-b75b-d41b-439177ef3902/2025-06-25%20PM%20-%20Testimony%20-%20Kobach%20-%20updated.pdf>

⁴ See, e.g., <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/enter-the-dragonchina-and-the-lefts-lawfare-against-american-energy-dominance>; <https://statearmor.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/State-Armor-Who-is-Energy-Foundation-China-Report.pdf>.