

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 3, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mullin:

We write to request a briefing on the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to prevent goods made wholly or in part with forced labor from entering the United States. In particular, we seek an update on the Department's implementation of the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) and enforcement of additional U.S. trade laws preventing the influx of illegally traded goods originating from the People's Republic of China (PRC) that harm American industries and workers.

Congress enacted these laws to ensure that illegally traded goods, particularly those made with forced labor, do not enter U.S. commerce and do not make American consumers complicit in atrocities, including genocide, in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). Strong enforcement protects human rights, supports American workers, and helps ensure that U.S. businesses are not undercut by illegal and unfair trade practices. We are encouraged by the Administration's recent actions to crack down on forced labor connected to the XUAR by updating the UFLPA Entity List¹ and share the Administration's stated goal of combating trade practices that harm American workers. We want to work with the Department to ensure these laws are effectively enforced as supply chains evolve and the PRC continues its labor abuses.

Recent reporting, supply-chain analysis, and the recent updates to the UFLPA Entity List make clear that forced-labor exposure to the PRC is not limited to a narrow set of products or industries. Due to Beijing's wide-ranging employment of forced labor transfer programs, it now arises across consumer goods, textiles and apparel, seafood, critical minerals, steel and aluminum, advanced materials, and other upstream industrial inputs. These supply chains can be difficult to trace, particularly when products move through third-country processing hubs, transshipment routes, or other intermediaries that obscure the origin of underlying inputs. Moreover, the risk of forced labor products being transshipped into the United States is growing given the significant expansion of the export-dependent textile industry in the XUAR.² The inability to perform independent, trustworthy supply chain auditing or monitoring of labor conditions in the PRC affirms the

¹ "DHS Announces the Addition of 43 Companies to the UFLPA Entity List: Homeland Security." U.S. Department of Homeland Security, July 31, 2026. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2026/07/31/dhs-announces-addition-43-companies-uflpa-entity-list>.

² Chua, J. M. (2026). Despite "economic bullying," Xinjiang's textile industry is growing. Retrieved from <https://wwd.com/sourcing-journal/industry-news/xinjiang-cotton-growing-uflpa-uyghur-1238864636/>

necessity of the rebuttable presumption in the UFLPA that textiles and other goods produced or originating in the region contain forced labor inputs.

Public reporting has identified additional examples that warrant updates from DHS on its enforcement practices, including allegations involving forced labor used to produce the cotton in “Labubu” dolls and longstanding vulnerabilities in seafood supply chains, such as vessel-based labor abuses, transshipment practices, and opaque sourcing networks. We also seek an update on how the Department is addressing widely used supply chain inputs linked to the XUAR, including cotton, textiles, seafood inputs, steel, aluminum, polysilicon, silane gas, silicon-carbon materials, critical minerals, and other advanced materials.

Publicly available information raises concerns about recent enforcement trends. Reports of substantially declining detention activity in key high-risk sectors, combined with continued imports from known transshipment hubs and PRC-linked supply chains, make it important for Congress to understand how DHS is setting enforcement priorities, measuring results, and identifying gaps in enforcement capacity.

We also request an update on efforts to expand the UFLPA Entity List. We were encouraged to see the Department’s addition of 43 new companies to the Entity List in July, which was the first expansion of the list since January 2025. Still, as we understand it, there are hundreds more Entity List packages remaining in the approval pipeline. Timely designation is essential to preventing circumvention, deterring violative imports, and ensuring that the law is fully enforced. If DHS has identified additional resources or authorities needed to strengthen UFLPA Entity List targeting, we welcome the opportunity to discuss those needs.

As the United States invests in advanced technologies and works to reduce dependence on supply chains with national security and human rights risks, DHS enforcement should also account for emerging materials and industrial inputs that may carry forced-labor exposure. These include advanced battery inputs, critical minerals, and other materials that may rely on upstream production in high-risk regions or through entities linked to forced labor. Effective enforcement can help ensure that these inputs do not become embedded in American industries of strategic importance.

Accordingly, we respectfully request a briefing addressing the following:

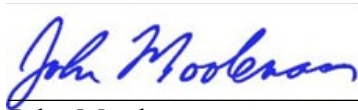
1. Current DHS, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force enforcement priorities across high-risk and priority enforcement sectors, including consumer goods, seafood, textiles and apparel, steel and aluminum, polysilicon, silane gas, silicon-carbon materials, critical minerals, and other advanced materials;
2. Enforcement measures addressing forced labor exposure in seafood supply chains, including vessel-based labor abuses, transshipment practices, and coordination with other federal agencies;
3. The status of efforts to update and expand the UFLPA Entity List and any barriers or resource constraints to the listing of additional entities;
4. Data on shipments detained, released, excluded, or seized under UFLPA and Section 307 authorities, including trends over the past year, sector-specific data, and country-of-shipment data;

5. Current evidentiary standards required for importers to rebut the UFLPA presumption, including the types of supply-chain tracing, documentation, and verification CBP currently requires;
6. Staffing levels and resources at CBP and DHS dedicated to UFLPA enforcement and FLETF duties, including any changes since 2024;
7. How DHS is evaluating emerging supply chains, including silicon-carbon battery anodes, critical minerals, and other advanced materials, for forced-labor exposure;
8. DHS's efforts to investigate forced labor violations and other trade-related crimes, including in partnership with the Department of Justice's Trade Fraud Task Force launched in August 2025 and other relevant federal agencies;
9. DHS's bilateral and multilateral engagements with foreign governments to promote enforceable forced-labor import bans, reduce diversion and transshipment, and strengthen international supply-chain accountability; and
10. How DHS is leveraging artificial intelligence to validate shipment country-of-origin and supply-chain documentation to identify potential UFLPA violations or other inconsistencies in shipment data.

We respectfully request that the Department provide this briefing within 30 days, along with any written materials that would assist us in our oversight responsibilities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure that U.S. law is fully enforced, that American markets remain free from goods made with forced labor, and that American workers and industries are protected from illegal and unfair trade practices.

Sincerely,



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Chairman
Select Committee on the CCP



Christopher H. Smith
Co-Chairman
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