



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hearing Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)

Countering Threats Posed by the Chinese Communist Party to U.S. National Security

March 5, 2025

Today, the Committee is examining the threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party to our national security. These threats are very real. The CCP is looking for every opportunity to undermine our security and get the upper hand on the U.S. globally.

The problem is, congressional Republicans' tough talk on China is at odds with the Trump administration's actions, which are hurting America's ability to counter threats from the CCP. For example, China is carrying out cyber attacks for espionage and to position itself for attacks against our critical infrastructure in the event of a future conflict.

According to the Intelligence Community's 2024 World Wide Threat assessment, "China remains the most active and persistent cyber threat to U.S. government, private sector, and critical infrastructure networks."

Unbelievably, President Trump has fired key cybersecurity personnel at the Department of Homeland Security and dismissed members of the Cyber Safety Review Board investigating recent Chinese attacks.

We are hearing that significant cuts are coming for the remaining workforce at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Let's be clear — the Trump administration gutting U.S. cyber defenses makes it harder to protect Americans against Chinese cyber attacks and makes us less safe.

What are congressional Republicans doing to preserve the workforce that protects our cyber networks? *Nothing.*

Meanwhile, in its rush to fire government employees, the Trump administration sent out an unclassified email with the names of CIA analysts and operatives working to counter China. One former CIA officer referred to the email as a, quote, "counterintelligence nightmare."

What are congressional Republicans doing to protect this information from Chinese hackers? *Nothing.*

China is also on a mission to steal our economic secrets and personal data to gain a competitive advantage. Fortunately for China, Elon Musk is lending a hand. Musk and his DOGE lackeys have made key Federal data systems more vulnerable and put millions of Americans' data at risk by snooping in sensitive cyber networks without adequate security protections.

What are congressional Republicans doing to protect Americans' personal data from Musk, DOGE, and possible exploitation by China? *Nothing.*

Additionally, China is using its “Belt and Road Initiative” to leverage investments to expand its influence in the developing world. Rather than protecting America’s interests globally, the Trump-Musk administration has slashed U.S. foreign investment and alienated allies and partners, undermining our ability to compete with China for influence on the global stage.

What are congressional Republicans doing to protect American interests and influence around the world? Nothing.

The Trump administration is weakening America against China, while Elon Musk is exerting seemingly limitless influence over the Executive Branch of government. That’s no coincidence. Musk has close ties with China, though the full extent of his entanglements is unknown because he refuses to file a public financial disclosure and has failed to disclose meetings with Chinese officials.

Still, it is clear Musk’s businesses rely heavily on China for their success, and he has over a billion dollars in loans from state-owned Chinese banks. Musk has also taken public stances to the benefit of China and has even suggested giving some control over Taiwan to China.

His own former DOGE co-chair raised concerns about Musk’s ties to China, saying “I have no reason to think Elon won’t jump like a circus monkey” when [Chinese President] Xi Jinping calls in the hour of need.” That doesn’t sound like “America First” — it sounds like “China First.”

What are congressional Republicans doing to sound the alarm about someone beholden to China running our government? Nothing.

Democrats agree that the CCP poses a threat to U.S. security and want to keep Americans safe. If Republicans want to counter China’s influence and protect U.S. interests, they should start by holding their own administration accountable.

Talking tough on China but bending the knee to Trump and Musk plays right into the CCP’s hands. Let’s hope the other side remembers their oath is to the Constitution and not to the man in the White House or his unelected billionaire co-president.

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