



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Confronting Threats Posed by the Chinese Communist Party to the U.S. Homeland

March 9, 2023

I am pleased the Subcommittee is holding today's hearing on the threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party to the U.S. homeland. There is bipartisan agreement that the United States must continue to bolster itself – economically, technologically, and otherwise – to win the increasingly intense, strategic competition between America and China. Out-competing the CCP requires focus, unity, leadership, and – perhaps most importantly – values.

The strategic competition between the United States and China is about the economy. It's about technology. And it's about whose values the world embraces – Chinese authoritarianism or American democracy. The Chinese Communist Party would love to see the United States divided. The CCP would love to see Americans prejudiced. The Chinese government would love for the United States to abandon free speech and free expression.

That's why today's hearing is so important – it is an opportunity for Members of Congress to learn from experts about China's goals. But it is also an opportunity for us to ask experts about how the United States can out-compete the CCP while protecting and promoting freedom, democracy, and inclusiveness.

Here's what we know about China's ambitions:

- China is expanding and modernizing its military, and it is flexing its military might throughout East Asia.
- The Chinese government is developing strategic technologies and digital infrastructure globally, and it is scooping up data from around the world.
- And the CCP is attempting to exert its influence with the aim of undermining democratic institutions, and ultimately the United States' standing in the world.

Democrats have worked tirelessly to strengthen the U.S. economy, invest in the American people, and protect our Nation's values – all of which makes the United States stronger against China.

Last week, President Biden issued the first-ever *National Cybersecurity Strategy*, which laid out a five-pillar plan to secure the United States' digital ecosystem and protect against cyberthreats—the most persistent of which emerge from China. President Biden has taken steps to fulfill the three-part plan outlined in his *National Security Strategy* for “out-competing” China while seeking to, and I quote, “engage constructively with [China] wherever we can.”

House Democrats have invested hundreds of billions of dollars in American industry, the semiconductor supply chain, and American jobs to ensure our workers and our businesses always win in a global competition with China. And Democrats banned TikTok from U.S. government devices to ensure the CCP

would not have access to that data. While today's hearing is important, I would urge that as we work to address this issue – we do so deliberately.

The United States must move swiftly to counter China's ambitions, but we cannot move hastily. We cannot abandon our values of free speech and free expression. As President Biden has said – we ought to “compete vigorously” with China, but not go “looking for conflict.” And as Subcommittee Ranking Member Magaziner has said, we must reject any anti-Chinese or anti-Asian rhetoric and stereotyping, which can lead and has already led to violence against Asian Americans. We cannot allow that.

I am looking forward to hearing from today's witnesses about not just the CCP's ambitions, but their effectiveness, and how we can best counter their success.

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