United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 29, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC, 20500

Dear President Trump:

Ahead of your meeting with President Xi Jinping in South Korea on Thursday, we write to urge you not to negotiate away America and our allies' national security.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) poses a fundamental threat to U.S. national security, economic prosperity, and global leadership. China engages in unfair and coercive economic practices that directly hurt American workers and businesses, including targeting industries for global domination, flooding the world with excess capacity of goods to undermine markets, and illegally forcing companies to hand over intellectual property and technology. Across multiple administrations and congresses, there has been bipartisan support for tools that safeguard our national security, including export controls and investment screening mechanisms on critical technologies, as well as partnerships with trusted allies.

We are deeply disturbed by your recent statements and actions, which indicate that you are all too willing to sacrifice these vital national security tools for empty promises and illusory "wins."

In July, your Administration reversed its position and lifted export controls on artificial intelligence chips that the CCP can use to enable autonomous weapons systems, intelligence surveillance platforms, and rapid advances in battlefield decision-making. At that time, members of your cabinet stated publicly that this policy change was a "negotiating chip" offered in return for China lifting its own export restrictions on rare earths.[1] Weeks later, your Administration reportedly told Taiwan's President to cancel a planned stopover in the United States over fears that such a visit would upset China, even though such visits were common in previous administrations, including during your first term.[2] And you continue to flout bipartisan law on TikTok's operations in the United States, offering its Chinese owner reprieve after reprieve, including a vague Executive Order last month that provided little detail on how any eventual

[1] Flatley, Daniel, and Lai, Stephanie. "Bessent Tells Markets Not to Worry About China Tariff Deadline." *Bloomberg*, July 15, 2025. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-07-15/bessent-tells-markets-not-to-worry-about-china-tariff-deadline.

[2] Sevastopulo, Demetri, and Hille, Kathrin. "Donald Trump blocks Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te from New York stopover." *Financial Times*, July 28, 2025. https://www.ft.com/content/21575bec-5cdd-47ee-9db2-3031c4ea7ca7.

TikTok deal will protect Americans' data security, limit CCP influence, and fulfill national security requirements under law.[3]

America's export controls, investment safeguards, and our longstanding security partnerships must not be on the negotiating table.

There has been reporting that China is seeking a relaxation in national security restrictions on their investment in the U.S. as part of the ongoing negotiations.[4] You have previously acknowledged that "investment at all costs is not always in the national interest."[5] We urge you to remember this and not lift security protections or hamper the vital work of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States in a push for a deal to get out of the mess of a trade war you have started with China. Similarly, at a time when Congress is working to codify outbound investment rules,[6] it is essential that you not handcuff the work of the Treasury Department's Outbound Investment Security Program. This program was designed to ensure that U.S. firms do not contribute to the development of sensitive technologies in countries of concern, and the Treasury Department must be directed to aggressively implement that program. Lastly, there is reporting that President Xi is seeking a formal statement that the United States "opposes" Taiwan's independence.[7] Taiwan is a thriving democracy, an important trading partner, and a critical partner in upholding peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, and America's support for Taiwan should not be on the agenda for your meeting with President Xi, as has been reported.[8]

You have expressed confidence that you will leave South Korea this week with a "really fair and really great trade deal." We urge you to understand that any deal that sacrifices America or our allies' national security is neither.

Sincerely,

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[3] "Saving TikTok While Protecting National Security." The White House, September 25, 2025. www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/09/saving-tiktok-while-protecting-national-security/.

[4] O'Keefe, Kate, Donovan, Shawn, Wingrove, Josh, Martin, Eric, and Leonard, Jenny. "China Urges Trump to Lift Security Curbs in Push for Deals." *Bloomberg*, October 3, 2025. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-10-03/china-pushes-trump-to-drop-curbs-as-it-dangles-investment-pledge.

[5] The White House. "America First Investment Policy." February 21, 2025. https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/america-first-investment-policy/.

[6] S.1053; S.Amdt.3926 to S.Amdt.3748

[7] Wei, Lingling. "Xi Is Chasing Huge Concession From Trump: Opposing Taiwan Independence." *Wall Street Journal*, September 27, 2025. https://www.wsj.com/world/china/trump-xi-talks-china-taiwan-8ed82d1b?gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=AWEtsqcqp6_oOVbzGdgcWyAA0BsLGAUl7zzgluQoBgWJQmlmiImWmhm4lRpYZhHPBEA%3D&gaa_ts=68faeeb0&gaa_sig=Q9eUiYSGcIOg4w1FSbOXnOunLscLEoabFG1NLSrTVE2FvFGh291GmMf719llgpfXk-ExD1fHaQms-OqrMS65gA%3D%3D.

[8] Woodhouse, Skylar, Glamann, Philip, and Murphy, Colum. "Trump Expects Taiwan on Agenda for Xi Meeting, Predicts Trade Deal." *Bloomberg*, October 19, 2025. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-10-20/trump-says-us-will-be-fine-with-china-as-trade-talks-near.

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