

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 28, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write today in response to recent events of the China spy balloon and other objects entering American air space over the past few weeks. We remain deeply concerned by these violations of United States sovereignty, and it is clear more needs to be done to address these situations. As the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, we are encouraged to hear that you will include in your upcoming Fiscal Year 2024 budget request the resources and plans necessary to respond to these types of provocations.


We held the first public committee briefing with Administration officials dedicated to the China spy balloon and are committed to working together to show a united front to the world that we will not let our air space be compromised. We appreciate that your Administration made itself available for this public briefing on short notice. This type of transparency is critical to ensuring Americans have faith in the federal government's ability to respond and keep our nation safe. As we made clear during this committee session, our country needs to take decisive action to curb a future spy balloon from traveling through American air space. While questions remain regarding that highly publicized event, the Administration needs to strengthen our capabilities in this space.

There is no duty more important than keeping the United States safe and defending our national security. We will work with, and hold accountable, anyone to meet that responsibility.

Thank you for your personal attention to this matter. We stand ready to work with you to ensure the necessary resources and strategies are in place to secure America's air space against foreign aerial surveillance objects.

Sincerely,


Chairman Tester
United States Senator


Vice Chair Collins
United States Senator