

# United States Senate

July 12, 2023

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III  
Secretary of Defense  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1010 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

The Honorable Janet L. Yellen  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Austin, Secretary Raimondo, and Secretary Yellen:

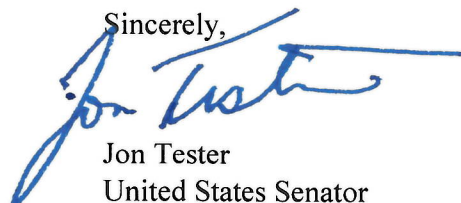
I write with my deep concerns about the reports indicating the Chinese spy balloon first spotted by Americans over Montana relied on American-made technology. This brazen act highlights the importance of real and effective measures to stop the Chinese Communist Party from importing our American-made and taxpayer funded technology to undermine our national security.

The fact that the Chinese Communist Party was able to use our technology in their spy program is extremely troubling and must be immediately analyzed. This is a clear demonstration that our current defense and technology export controls may not be adequately preventing or dissuading adversaries from using our own technology against us. I expect this Administration, and the individual departments you oversee, to take whatever necessary action is required to bolster our export controls so that this doesn't happen again. If you determine that additional authorities are necessary from Congress, I stand ready to help you bolster our national security tools.

It is also imperative that we identify the means by which the Chinese government acquired this technology and identify those responsible. I expect a thorough and timely investigation into how this technology was allowed into the hands of the Chinese government, and the organizations and methods responsible. While I am pleased that the Department of Commerce formally restricted several Chinese entities with ties to the country's military from obtaining American technologies, I expect that further measures need to be taken.

I look forward to your swift review and analysis of this unacceptable circumstance, and recommendations on potential remedies. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester  
United States Senator