

# United States Senate

March 11, 2025

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

Congratulations on your recent inauguration as the 47<sup>th</sup> President of the United States and the historic start to your second term. We look forward to working with you in enacting your peace through strength agenda and restoring American national security.

Over the past four years, our adversaries, led by the People's Republic of China (PRC), have launched numerous, brazen attacks in the cyber domain against the U.S. Government and the American people with near impunity, due to the weakness of the Biden Administration. Most recently, Chinese state-sponsored cyber actors hacked into the U.S. Department of the Treasury during the last week of the Biden presidency, reportedly compromising the office of former Secretary Janet Yellen as well as the sensitive Office of Foreign Assets Control.<sup>1</sup>

This attack against U.S. Government systems came shortly after the American people learned of the alarming Salt Typhoon espionage operation, in which China-linked actors infiltrated several U.S. telecommunications companies with free rein to geolocate, collect data on, and record phone calls of millions of Americans.<sup>2</sup> As you well know, these hackers also targeted high profile American political leaders, including you and Vice President Vance<sup>3</sup>. We also have concerns that this attack involved systems used for compliance with Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) requirements.<sup>4</sup> Simply put, this operation alone is a stunning and unacceptable act of cyber espionage. Yet once again, the Biden Administration failed to respond.

Those are just the most recent attacks—the last four years have also seen China breach systems and email accounts at both the Department of Commerce and the Department of State.<sup>5</sup> Alarming, multiple U.S. Government agencies have also assessed that PRC state-sponsored cyber actors prepositioned themselves within critical infrastructure networks with the intent to conduct “disruptive or destructive cyberattacks against U.S. critical infrastructure in the event of a major crisis or conflict.”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/technology/cybersecurity/us-treasurys-sanctions-office-hacked-by-chinese-government-washington-post-2025-01-02/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/technology/cybersecurity/us-adds-9th-telcom-list-companies-hacked-by-chinese-backed-salt-typhoon-2024-12-27/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://cyberscoop.com/report-chinese-hackers-used-telecom-access-to-go-after-phones-of-trump-vance/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/u-s-officials-race-to-understand-severity-of-chinas-salt-typhoon-hacks-6e7c3951>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/27/us/politics/chinese-hackers-state-department.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/cybersecurity-advisories/aa24-038a>

All of these attacks were undertaken with no forceful response by the Biden administration. Some officials from the former administration made last-ditch efforts to counter the narrative that the Biden administration failed to respond to some of the worst cyber-attacks in our nation's history. The American people, however, are not fooled by the last-minute news that the "*Biden [administration] quietly hit back*" against our adversaries' attacks.<sup>7</sup> We possess the most powerful offensive cyber systems in the world, and when an adversary attacks our people, government, and critical infrastructure, there must be an appropriate response.

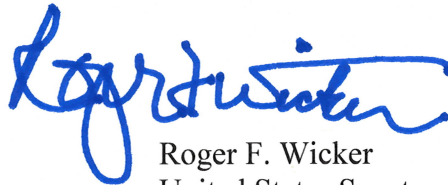
Mr. President, it is clear that deterrence must be restored in the cyber domain. It is unacceptable for China and our other enemies to conduct such brazen cyber-attacks against our government and the American people. We urge you to take strong, decisive action to secure America's critical networks from PRC threats. We stand ready to support you and your administration in imposing higher costs on adversaries who attack our country in the cyber domain, improving our cyber defenses, and increasing U.S. offensive capabilities to conduct cyber operations.

Thank you for your service to our country, and we look forward to working together in support of our national security.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator



Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



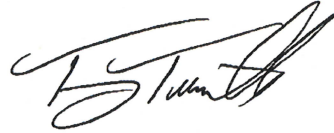
Cindy Hyde-Smith  
United States Senator

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<sup>7</sup> <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/01/biden-admin-quietly-hit-back-at-nations-that-targeted-the-u-s-with-cyberattacks-top-official-says-00198876>



Pete Ricketts  
United States Senator



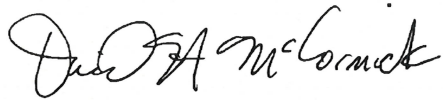
Tommy Tuberville  
United State Senator



Todd Young  
United States Senator



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



David H. McCormick  
United States Senator



Jim Justice  
United States Senator

cc:

The Honorable Michael Waltz  
National Security Advisor

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard  
Director of National Intelligence

The Honorable Pete Hegseth  
Secretary of the Department of Defense

The Honorable John Ratcliffe  
Director of the Central Intelligence Agency

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary of the Department of Homeland  
Security

General Timothy Haugh  
Commander, United States Cyber Command  
and Director, National Security Agency