

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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October 26, 2022

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Christopher Wray:

Committee Republicans are investigating the national security implications of the Biden family's international business schemes. Documents obtained by Committee Republicans reveal Hunter Biden's business partner and close personal associate was linked to the Communist Party of China (CCP), her employer before the Biden family. JiaQi "Jackie" Bao provided Hunter insight into purchasing liquified natural gas reserves in the United States to sell to China,¹ had access to the Biden family's financial information, and liaised with CCP-affiliated agents on the Bidens' behalf. After infiltrating the Biden family, Bao urged Hunter to encourage Joe Biden to run for president months before he announced and then supplied the Biden family campaign advice related to China. Media reports and documents reviewed by Committee Republicans suggest that Bao and Hunter's relationship extended beyond professional obligations²—a common tactic employed by Chinese intelligence agents.³ Committee Republicans are concerned Hunter Biden may have been compromised by the People's Republic of China (PRC) and foreign intelligence services (FIS). Due to the interconnected nature of the Biden family's finances and business dealings, this type of access would jeopardize U.S. national security.

Bao received a degree at Tsinghua University—a recruiting hub for China's intelligence service⁴—after being awarded a government scholarship.⁵ Tsinghua University has been designated a very high risk for economic espionage and links to cyber-attacks against PRC

¹ Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform to Hon. Janet Yellen, Secretary, U.S. Dep't of Treasury (Sep. 20, 2022).

² *Hunter Biden's assistant was former Chinese government researcher, book says*, FOX NEWS (Jan. 27, 2022); Josh Boswell, *EXCLUSIVE: 'Your doggy chain necklace is waiting for you.' Flirty messages from Hunter Biden's Chinese-American secretary, 29, who worked for him when he partnered with the 'spy chief of China' are revealed*, DAILY MAIL (May 7, 2021).

³ Amber Phillips, *What we know about Rep. Eric Swalwell's ties to an alleged Chinese spy*, WASH. POST (Dec. 11, 2020).

⁴ Wen-Hsuan Tsai, *The Impending Rise of the "Tsinghua Clique": Cultivation, Transfer, and Relationships in Chinese Elite Politics*, JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY CHINA (Mar. 2019).

⁵ *Supra*, n. 2.

rivals.⁶ She then worked for the PRC's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), which "is in charge of China's macroeconomic planning" and approves any major project that receives foreign funding.⁷ Committee Republicans are alarmed that someone who got her start working for the PRC and tied to Chinese espionage was able to successfully infiltrate the Biden family business.

Bao joined Hunter Biden as he was attempting to do business with CEFC, at the time one of the largest energy companies in China and closely affiliated with the Chinese government. In documents obtained by Committee Republicans, Hunter Biden refers to the founder and chairman of CEFC as his "partner" and the vice-chairman of CEFC, Patrick Ho, as his client and the "f**king spy chief of China."⁸ Documents obtained by Committee Republicans reveal that Bao was also working for CEFC employees linked to the CCP. Regarding a potential U.S. liquified natural gas (LNG) purchase Bao and the Bidens sought to sell to China, Bao told Hunter Biden, Jim Biden, and CEFC associates in an email that "my job is to make sure our interest is protected, everyone is on the same page, and not letting people like Mr. Thornhill take advantage of our interest and collaborative effort." The email is produced below (**Figure 1**):

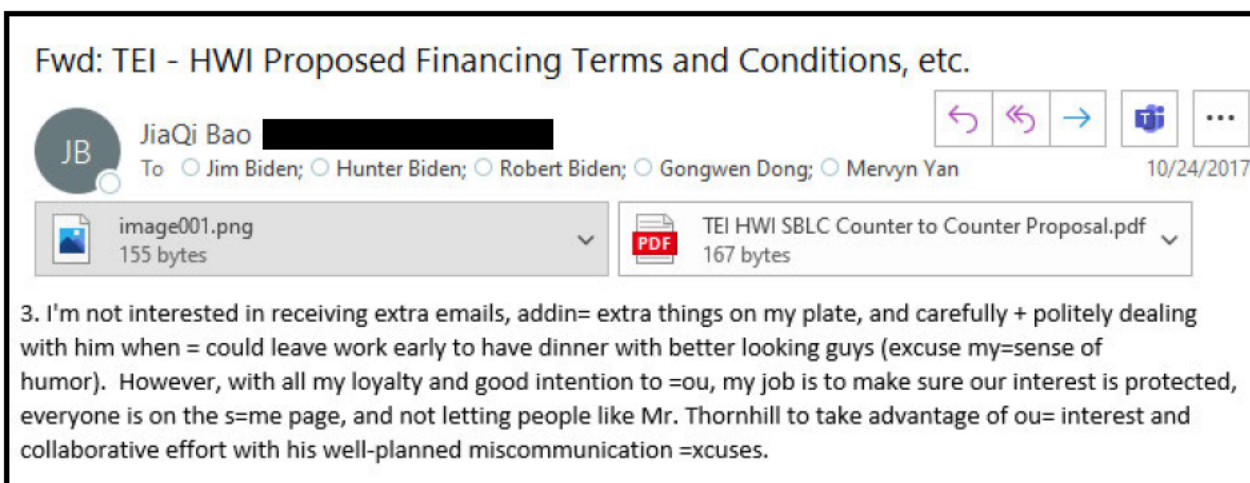


Figure 1: Email from JiaQi Bao to Jim Biden, Hunter Biden, Gongwen Dong (CEO of CEFC), and Mervyn Yan (CEFC) about her job description.

⁶ Tsinghua University, *China Defense Universities Tracker*, AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE, available at <https://unitracker.aspi.org.au/universities/tsinghua-university/>.

⁷ *National Development and Reform Commission*, THE US-CHINA BUSINESS COUNCIL, available at <https://www.uschina.org/policy/national-development-and-reform-commission>.

⁸ *Supra*, n. 1.

Bao provided Hunter with maps—in Mandarin Chinese—of U.S. LNG targets, attended negotiations with U.S. energy companies, and helped execute financial transactions. One of these maps is produced below (**Figure 2**):



Figure 2: (Translation from Mandarin Chinese) Map of Shale Gas Producing Areas in the 48 States of the Continental United States.

Bao appeared to be effectively running the joint venture under Hunter Biden’s name. She produced yearly reports and business plans for Hudson West III, the joint venture Hunter Biden created with the Chinese firm, CEFC (**Appendix A**).

In early 2018, the Biden-CEFC venture was cut short when the Bidens’ Chinese partners were arrested for attempting to bribe foreign leaders and other economic crimes.⁹ Nonetheless, Bao seemed determined to remain close to the Biden political orbit even after the initial relationship dissolved, a hallmark of foreign intelligence activity.¹⁰ The relationship between Bao and Hunter Biden appears—from evidence obtained by Committee Republicans—to have become personal and exceeded a professional capacity.¹¹ Seemingly attempting to enrich Hunter Biden, Bao told him that the disarray over the arrest of the CEFC founder “will present a great opportunity to gain” and “you should continue to pursue this investment thesis on natural gas” (**Appendix B**). Bao’s efforts to remain close to the Biden family following the CEFC venture

⁹ Brendan Pierson, *Ex-Hong Kong official sentenced to three years in prison in U.S. bribery case*, Reuters (Mar. 25, 2019); Shu Zhang, *China’s CEFC founder Ye named in corruption case – state media*, Reuters (Oct. 12, 2018).

¹⁰ Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian, *Exclusive: Suspected Chinese spy targeted California politicians*, AXIOS (Dec. 8, 2020).

¹¹ Documents on file with Committee Republican staff.

collapse raises serious concerns about Bao's motives and plans with the Biden family. Specifically, did the CCP push Bao to ensure that the Bidens continued selling American LNG to China? If so, this presents an alarming national security threat.

To further ingratiate herself with the Biden family, Bao took a concerted interest in Joe Biden's presidential aspirations and strategy. In December 2018, the *New York Times* published a story about the Biden family's dealings with CEFC,¹² about which—prior to printed publication—Joe Biden called his son and told him “I think you're clear.”¹³ Shortly thereafter—and still four months before he announced it to the American people—Bao sent a text message to Hunter: “Uncle Joe should run for President in 2020.” This text message is provided below (**Figure 3**):

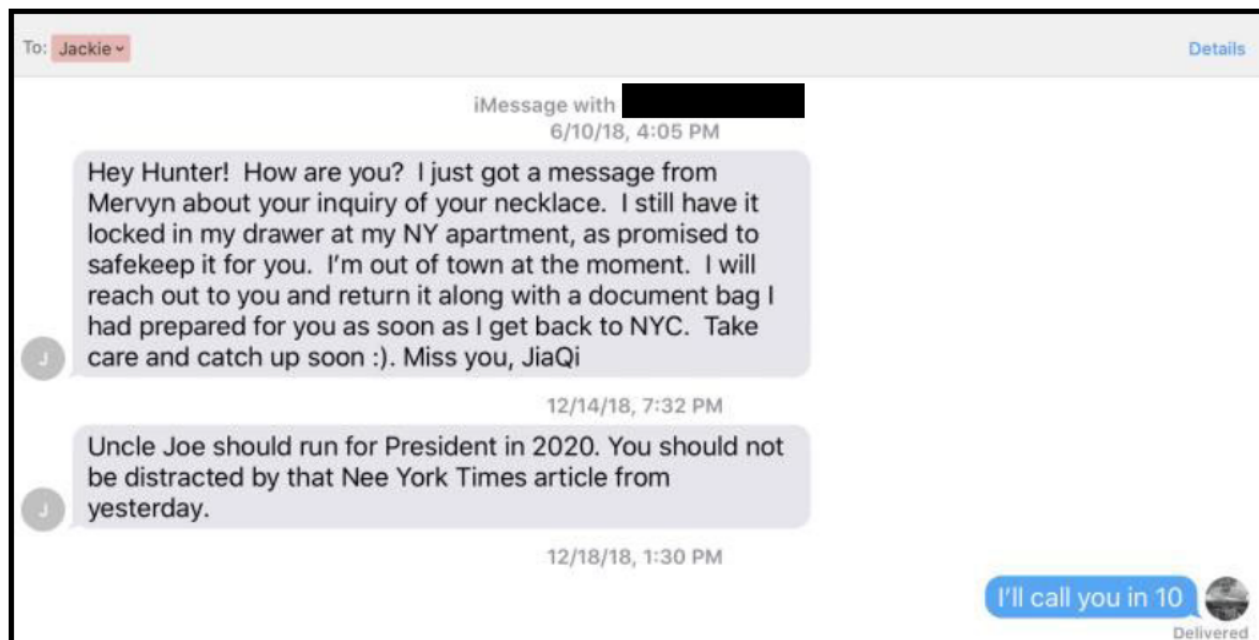


Figure 3: Text message from JiaQi Bao (Jackie) to Hunter Biden, urging his father to run for President of the United States.

In addition to the Chinese government through Bao, it is likely that Hunter Biden may have been compromised by other FIS agents throughout his time as an influence peddler and during his efforts to sell off American resources. Given recent revelations that a senior FBI official, Timothy Thibault, failed to investigate the Hunter Biden matter, Committee Republicans are concerned Special Agent Thibault ignored information about the role Bao played in the Biden family business and whether national security was compromised.¹⁴ The FBI's lack of

¹² Alexandra Stevenson, *A Chinese Tycoon Sought Power and Influence, Washington Responded.*, NEW YORK TIMES (Dec. 12, 2018).

¹³ Recording on file with Committee Republican staff.

¹⁴ Andres Triay & Catherine Herridge, *Top-level FBI Agent Under Fire for Role in Hunter Biden Investigation Resigns*, CBS NEWS (Aug. 31, 2022).

The Honorable Christopher Wray

October 26, 2022

Page 5

interest in Biden family dealings is troubling. The national security threat of an FIS gaining access to a presidential family's sensitive information is too great to ignore.

Considering that the FBI "is the lead agency for exposing, preventing, and investigating intelligence activities in the U.S.,"¹⁵ we request documents and information as soon as possible but no later than November 9, 2022:

1. All documents and communications regarding JiaQi Bao, including but not limited to her relationship with Hunter Biden, other members of the Biden family, and the Biden family's business dealings;
2. All documents and communications generated by or provided to Special Agent Timothy Thibault regarding the investigation into Hunter Biden and Biden family business dealings;
3. All documents and communications referring or relating to FIS efforts to compromise the Biden family, including but not limited to Hunter Biden;
4. All documents and communications regarding CEFC's efforts to purchase American energy and infiltrate the Biden family.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. To make arrangements to deliver documents or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican Staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform






¹⁵ *What We Investigate: Counterintelligence*, THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, available at <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/counterintelligence>.

Appendix A


Email from JiaQi Bao to Hunter Biden about 2018 investment opportunities for Hudson West III. Attached is a 2018 business plan.


thoughts on business + 2018 opportunities for HW

 JiaQi Bao 
To Robert Biden; Hunter Biden

1/23/2018

 2018 Biz Plan vF..pptx
239 bytes

 2018 Biz Plan vF..pdf
121 bytes

Hey Hunter,



Hope this email finds you well.






Please find attached for some thoughts I have on 2018 business opportunities. I have attached both the editable ppt version and the pdf version. Maybe it make more sense to elaborate on each specific point further over the phone. I have also mentioned to you on some of the ideas listed in previous email. Please let me know when

Appendix B

Email from JiaQi Bao to Hunter Biden, telling him that the arrest of his CEFC associates—whom he referred to as “my partner” and the “spy chief of China” —presents a great opportunity to gain “without mak(ing) any noise, if done right.

confidential - a few thoughts

 JiaQi Bao 
To Hunter Biden; Robert Biden

3/20/2018

Hey Hunter,

I don't think you should worry about any of the recent news at all (my personal opinion), because Chinese companies always deal very diplomatically with foreign business partners. Even if the worst case with Ye, those in the U. S. would not be impacted at all and **in fact it will present a great opportunity to gain**, both in terms of doing something meaningful, rewarding, as well as for realize substantial tangible gains without make any noise, if done right.

In Chinese literature, there is a poetic saying about "sit still, see the rise and fall of clouds." I think right now is the time for that, to wait on the right timing and to keep observe and evaluate the situation before anything else.

Further, regardless of what you decide to do with the current situation, as a friend and a professional with the interest for doing deals, I felt that you should **continue to pursue this investment thesis on natural gas**, regardless of who do you want to partner with and work with in the future. This will continue to be a great