

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<https://oversight.house.gov>

September 12, 2024

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Wray:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability (Committee) is continuing to investigate the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP or the Party) political warfare operations, including those seeking to co-opt and influence important figures in elite political circles to the benefit of the communist People's Republic of China (PRC). On August 16, 2024, the Committee requested information about the CCP-affiliated entities and officials with which Mr. Timothy Walz has engaged, as well as any warnings or information the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI or the Bureau) has provided to Mr. Walz or his office about CCP influence operations.¹ The deadline to produce such documents and information has passed, and the Bureau has failed to provide any response to the Committee. The FBI's silence regarding Mr. Walz's documented relations with CCP affiliates is inexcusable. During the 118th Congress, the Committee has investigated federal agencies' responses to CCP influence and infiltration tactics, including the FBI's own strategy; on July 17, the Bureau briefed the Committee on CCP influence operations. In part based on that briefing, it is clear to the Committee that Mr. Walz's history with CCP-affiliates bears characteristics of such influence operations, and the FBI must produce any information it has regarding this concerning development.

The Committee must understand the full extent of Mr. Walz's ties to the CCP. In short, such ties appear myriad and substantial. In 1993, Mr. Walz organized a trip to the PRC for his Alliance High School students; the costs for the trip were paid in part by the Chinese government.² Mr. Walz then created a private company to coordinate annual student trips to

¹ See Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Christopher Wray, Director, Fed. Bureau of Investigation (Aug. 16, 2024).

² Jan Treffer, *Boarding the Orient Express*, Star-Herald (July 25, 1993); Tim Hains, *Peter Schweizer: Tim Walz Has "All The Hallmarks" Of A Close Association With The CCP*, Real Clear Politics (Aug. 8, 2024); see also letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Miguel A. Cardona, Sec'y, Dep't of Educ. (May 6, 2024) ("Academics and policy experts broadly agree the PRC is engaged in political warfare to

China and led the tours himself.³ In 2007, Mr. Walz served not only as a member of Congress but also as a fellow at Macau Polytechnic University.⁴ According to the university's website, Macau Polytechnic University exists "in alignment with China's Belt and Road Initiative,"⁵ a political warfare program developed by President Xi Jinping to exert China's influence worldwide.⁶ Mr. Walz has visited the PRC, by his memory, roughly "30 times."⁷ As recently as this year, Mr. Walz met with CCP Consul General Zhao Jian to discuss "China-U.S. relations and sub-national cooperation."⁸

The FBI appears to deem these concerning facts unpersuasive to require its cooperation with a congressional investigation. The Committee will provide additional ties between Mr. Walz and the PRC: Recent reports indicate Mr. Walz, while in Congress, "helped secure over \$2 million" and "pushed for a \$5 million federal earmark" for the Hormel Institute, which is a "Minnesota-based medical research center with a history of working with the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China."⁹ The Wuhan Institute of Virology is closely connected to the CCP and has been implicated in the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰ The Hormel Institute has also worked with the Beijing Genomics Institute, "a group labeled by the Pentagon as a 'Chinese military company.'"¹¹ The former executive director of the Hormel Institute, Dr. Zigang Dong, "abruptly stepped down from his post" in 2019; "[a]round the same time, it was revealed [he] was involved in an FBI probe . . . investigating his 'possible failure to report foreign backing

immerse itself in the U.S. education system and the PRC is committed to ensuring it is the world leader in science and technology by 2050").

³ See Gabe Whisnant, *Tim Walz's China Connection Explained*, Newsweek (Aug. 6, 2024); see also Sasha Gong & Bradley A. Thayer, *Ten Things to Know About Tim Walz and His Ties to Communist China*, American Greatness (Aug. 15, 2024).

⁴ Form A, Financial Disclosure Statement, Timothy James Walz, U.S. House of Representatives (May 13, 2007).

⁵ Macau Polytechnic University, *Message from the Rector: Welcome to Macao Polytechnic University*, available at https://www.mpu.edu.mo/en/welcome_message.php (last accessed Sept. 10, 2024).

⁶ See Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, *Forced Labor: The Hidden Cost of China's Belt and Road Initiative*, U.S. Dep't of State (July 2022); see also James McBride, et al., *China's Massive Belt and Road Initiative*, Council on Foreign Relations (updated Feb. 2, 2023); Prof. Kerry K. Gershaneck, JAMS, VOL. 11, NO.2, *Political Warfare, The People's Republic of China's Strategy "to Win without Fighting,"* Marine Corp University Press (Spring 2020).

⁷ Diana Glebova & Ryan King, *Tim Walz has fawned over Communist China: Doesn't have to be 'adversarial relationship'*, New York Post (Aug. 6, 2024) (quoting Walz from a 2016 interview with Agri-Pulse); see also Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Antony Blinken, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of State (May 6, 2024) (cautioning that federal officials should not encourage or recommend travel to the PRC without acknowledging the risks to an individual's physical and data security).

⁸ ChinaConsulateChicago (@ChinaConsulate), X (Apr. 1, 2024, 8:26 pm), <https://x.com/ChinaConsulate/status/1774956547484864804>.

⁹ Gabe Kaminsky, *Tim Walz promoted research facility that partners with China's Wuhan lab*, Washington Examiner (Sept. 6, 2024).

¹⁰ See *id.*

¹¹ Andrew Mark Miller & Cameron Cawthorne, *Harris VP pick spent years promoting research facility that collaborated with 'Chinese Military Company'*, Fox News (Aug. 29, 2024).

when applying for grants.”¹² Mr. Dong is “a longtime . . . donor to Mr. Walz’s political career,” according to filings with the Federal Election Commission.¹³

The FBI told the Committee that the Bureau’s Foreign Influence Task Force investigates this kind of CCP activity. The Committee is concerned that Mr. Walz’s involvement with Chinese entities and officials may have allowed the CCP to influence his decision-making as a congressman and governor and potentially would allow the CCP to influence the White House should Mr. Walz be elected vice president. Therefore, the Committee reiterates its request for documents from its August 16, 2024, letter, which are included below for your convenience:

1. All documents and communications in the FBI’s possession, including that of the Foreign Influence Task Force’s, regarding any Chinese entity or individual with whom Mr. Walz may have engaged or partnered. Such entities and individuals include, but are not limited to, the following gathered from recent reporting and related entities:
 - a. Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries;
 - b. Chinese Students and Scholars Associations;
 - c. Confucius Institutes;
 - d. Consul General Zhao Jian;
 - e. Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the United States;
 - f. Macau Polytechnic University;
 - g. Ministry of Public Security;
 - h. Ministry of State Security;
 - i. National Association for China’s Peaceful Unification;
 - j. PRC consulates in the United States;
 - k. The united front, including the United Front Work Department;
 - l. U.S. China People’s Friendship Association; and
 - m. United States China Heartland Association.
2. All documents and communications between the FBI and Governor Walz or the Office of the Governor of Minnesota pertaining to warnings or guidance about subnational government officials engaging with the PRC, CCP, and the CCP’s proxies.

Additionally, the Committee requests all documents and information in the FBI’s possession regarding the Beijing Genomics Institute, the Hormel Institute and Dr. Zigang Dong.

¹² *Id.*

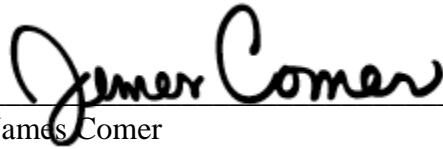
¹³ *Id.*

Hon. Christopher Wray
September 12, 2024
Page 4 of 4

Please provide all information no later than September 19, 2024. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5074.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability