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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3221

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**HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

January 12, 2021

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro,

As you know, the United States is committed to multilateral efforts in research and development (R&D), and various other collaborations that are mutually beneficial for all parties involved. This is why the United States provides billions of dollars a year in contributions to multilateral institutions and grants for various cooperative efforts in research and science. However, engagement in these endeavors is not without flaws, and U.S. funding at times has made its way to unreliable partners or dubious programs. In some instances, federal funding has been used to fund programs with entities that are majority owned, or controlled, by hostile foreign actors, like the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

At the beginning of the outbreak of COVID-19, it was reported that federal research grants were used by an American non-profit to fund collaborative research with the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV). The WIV is a government research lab in Wuhan engaged in research on bats and various strains of coronavirus. In 2018, our own Department of State observed unsafe practices taking place at the WIV. The fact that U.S. taxpayer dollars made their way to the WIV raises concerns regarding the end-use of federal funding and collaboration with untrustworthy or hostile entities.

In recent years, it has been made clear the People's Republic of China (PRC) is our nation's most challenging strategic competitor. Likewise, entities controlled by the CCP are untrustworthy partners and part of the CCP's concerted efforts to displace the United States as the world's preeminent power and elevate the PRC's position as the global leader in all measures of national power and influence. With this in mind, the United States must be unyielding in its scrutiny of programs in which U.S. funding might benefit the PRC at the expense of the United States. Similarly, the American people must be assured their tax dollars are not used to strengthen a regime that robs our economy of hundreds of billions of dollars each year, and in doing so displaces American jobs and disrupts global markets and supply chains to the detriment of U.S. businesses.

We commend the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) "Strategic Competition with China Crosscut" project to collect data on funding related to the PRC across federal agencies, which is consistent with past requests from Congress and will provide much-needed data for policy makers in the executive branch. To complement the OMB project, and ensure Congress and the public understands the full scope of U.S. federal funding made available to entities or programs related to the PRC or controlled by the CCP, we request GAO to assess the extent of funding provided across the United States government (USG) that is used for research programs or collaboration with such entities. Such a review should include information related to:

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5 WARREN STREET
SUITE 4
GLENS FALLS, NY 12801
(518) 743-0964

PLATTSBURGH
137 MARGARET STREET
SUITE 100
PLATTSBURGH, NY 12901
(518) 561-2324

WATERTOWN
88 PUBLIC SQUARE
SUITE A
WATERTOWN, NY 13601
(315) 782-3150

- The number of federal departments and agencies that engage in collaborative research efforts with entities in the PRC, or with CCP-controlled entities, including those departments and agencies that make grant money available to such entities.
- A comprehensive list, to the extent possible, of the programs or activities inside the PRC, or with CCP-controlled entities, that have been a recipient of federal research funding from the United States.
- The purpose of each program or collaboration with entities inside the PRC, or with CCP-controlled entities, that have received U.S. federal research funding, and the results, outcomes and benefits—if available—of such program or collaboration.
- A list of payments made to multilateral institutions of which the PRC is a primary or sole beneficiary or are led by a PRC official.

We appreciate your attention to this request. Please contact Joe Bartlett (joe.bartlett@mail.house.gov) at 202-225-4611 on my office staff or Bryan Burack (bryan.burack@mail.house.gov) with Lead Republican McCaul to discuss this letter.

Sincerely,



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign Affairs