

May 9, 2020

The Honorable Eliot Engel
Chairman
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Risch
Chairman
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
2001 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Menendez
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressional leaders:

As the Chief Legal Officers of the undersigned 18 states, we are writing to ask for Congressional Hearings into the communist Chinese Government and its role in the COVID-19 pandemic. Recent reports suggest that the communist Chinese government willfully and knowingly concealed information about the severity of the virus while simultaneously stockpiling personal protective equipment. In what Secretary of State Pompeo has described as a 'classic communist disinformation effort,' the Chinese government, aided by the World Health Organization, appears to have intentionally misled the world over the last 6 months.

These layers of deceit began last year with the censoring of Chinese health officials and the muzzling of Taiwanese complaints. The cover-up continued with the expulsion of media outlets and the proliferation of Chinese propaganda targeting the Western world. This propaganda campaign has spread disinformation about the United States and has included the suspicious gifts of drones to state, local and

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federal authorities as well as “educational” grants to American universities connected to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

During this same period, COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on our states and the Nation. We must all hold China accountable for the devastation and destruction caused by COVID-19. Tens of thousands have died from the virus and millions have lost their jobs. Countless businesses, both big and small, will perish and our states will grapple with tough economic decisions for years to come.

One of our colleagues has already filed suit against China and many of us are considering similar legal actions. Congressional hearings are critical to our Nation’s understanding of the origins of COVID-19 and efforts by the communist Chinese government to deceive the international community. We appreciate your consideration of our request and we all stand ready to support and participate in any hearings you choose to conduct.

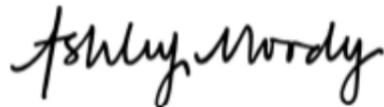
Sincerely,



Alan Wilson
Attorney General of South Carolina



Steve Marshall
Attorney General of Alabama



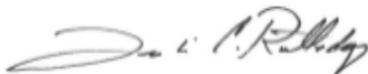
Ashley Moody
Attorney General of Florida



Kevin Clarkson
Attorney General of Alaska



Christopher M. Carr
Attorney General of Georgia



Leslie Rutledge
Attorney General of Arkansas



Curtis Hill
Attorney General of Indiana

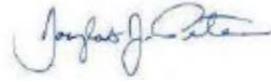
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Derek Schmidt
Attorney General of Kansas



Douglas J. Peterson
Attorney General of Nebraska



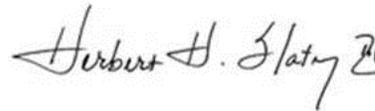
Daniel Cameron
Attorney General of Kentucky



Mike Hunter
Attorney General of Oklahoma



Jeff Landry
Attorney General of Louisiana



Herbert H. Slatery, III
Attorney General of Tennessee



Lynn Fitch
Attorney General of Mississippi



Ken Paxton
Attorney General of Texas



Eric Schmitt
Attorney General of Missouri



Patrick Morrissey
Attorney General of West Virginia



Tim Fox
Attorney General of Montana