

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 30, 2024

The Honorable Claudia Sheinbaum
President-elect of Mexico
1911 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President-elect Sheinbaum,

Congratulations on your historic election victory as Mexico's first woman president. Americans recognize the significance of your election and celebrate along with you, and we are looking forward to your swearing in on October 1, 2024. We know you will continue the productive relationship between our two neighboring countries.

As you prepare to take office, we ask that you quickly turn your attention to a new and growing issue: the national security risks to both our nations from the widespread presence of "connected" vehicles built by companies with deep ties to the Chinese Communist Party.

Today's vehicles – including those made by Chinese companies – are equipped with sophisticated sensors, powerful computers, and networking capabilities that allow these connected vehicles to gather, store and transmit large amounts of data about their occupants and their surroundings. This includes 3D mapping, live action video, and geolocation of individuals. Chinese automakers have made significant inroads in the Mexican market, more than tripling their share of Mexico's market since the start of this decade – with the data from that fleet of vehicles accessible to the Chinese Communist Party. This growth has rightly raised significant concerns with us in Congress, and we believe that these Chinese companies, which receive huge state subsidies, are now seeking to use Mexico as a base to enter the U.S. market.

We believe that this body of data, under the control of the Chinese Communist Party, is a national security threat. These vehicles can gather private, personal data on individuals, gather intelligence valuable to a potential adversary like China, and can even launch cyber attacks against critical infrastructure systems. Indeed, China itself recognizes the sensitive capabilities of connected vehicles and has taken actions to restrict the operation of foreign vehicles in China accordingly.

For our own national and economic security, the United States has taken action to confront this challenge, imposing targeted new tariffs on Chinese goods, including vehicles, because of these unfair trade practices. The fact that Chinese companies, including automaker BYD, have announced plans for assembly plants in Mexico raises the potential for Chinese companies to attempt to circumvent these tariffs with production in Mexico. We would note that U.S. officials are well aware of this potential and made clear that using Mexico in an effort to avoid U.S. tariffs could bring additional action by the United States.

Here in the United States, we have taken bipartisan steps to address these issues: tariffs, as mentioned above; executive orders to counter national security threats, and new legislative proposals to support these efforts. It is

worth noting that many of these actions are reciprocal, mirroring restrictions that China has had in place for years on foreign vehicles. However, we remain concerned that Chinese companies will seek to use production in Mexico in an effort to bypass these measures.

With these facts in mind, we ask that your new Administration take the following steps to address these challenges:

- Formalize the current government’s policy, outlined in media reports, of refusing to grant federal economic development incentives – such as tax incentives and reduced utility and land costs – to firms with ties to the Chinese Communist Party, and to urge Mexican states to follow suit. This should include business partnerships with firms affiliated with the Chinese Communist Party, such as joint ventures with Mexican entities.
- Establish a national security review process to address risks posed by the manufacture or sale of vehicles built by Chinese firms to Mexico’s people, your national security, and the regional security of North American and Organization of American States nations. Such a process would follow-up the December 2023 Memorandum of Intent signed by the finance ministers of both our nations, which affirmed the importance of foreign investment screening in protecting national security.
- Send a delegation from your Administration to meet with officials from the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Treasury, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, the National Economic Council, and the National Security Council by early 2025 to discuss how our nations can work together to address these risks.

For decades, our countries have worked together on issues affecting both our peoples. We have much work to do on issues such as international migration, the flow of narcotics and weapons across our shared border, economic and environmental policies and much more. And now it includes a shared approach to Chinese vehicles and control of data collected therein. This new challenge is complex and difficult, and is best met by working collaboratively – and we hope to take it on together.

Sincerely,



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



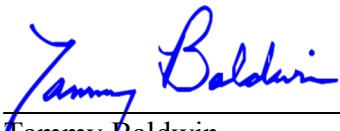
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



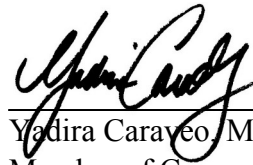
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Gary Peters
United States Senator



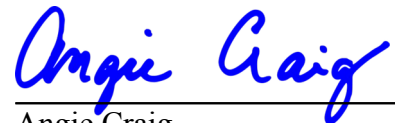
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Yadira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



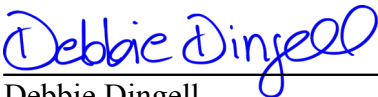
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



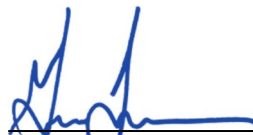
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



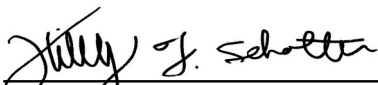
Val Hoyle
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Hillary J. Scholten
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Mikie Sherrill
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Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



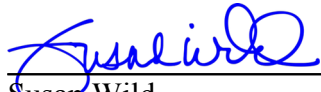
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Ken Salazar, United States Ambassador to Mexico
The Honorable Antony Blinken, Secretary of State
Ambassador Esteban Moctezuma, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mexico to the United States of America
The Honorable Janet Yellen, Secretary of the Treasury
The Honorable Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce
The Honorable Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative
Mr. Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Dr. Lael Brainard, Director of the National Economic Council