

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 15, 2021

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

We write to express our concern with the harmful efforts of several firms connected to the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Automation that are working to weaponize surveillance functions on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). As such, we request that the Department of Commerce intervene to defend American interests and add these companies to its “Entity List.”

The Department of Commerce plays a critical role in preserving U.S. values and promoting national security, especially when protecting the United States from malign interference by the CCP. The CCP is known to blur the facts of activities within state-controlled research institutions, promote unofficial transfers of intellectual property, and participate in activities that damage the moral framework surrounding human rights and scientific research.

These alarming discoveries solidify the importance of further vetting for Chinese state-affiliated entities whose activities oppose American ethics at their core. The human rights abuses at the hands of the CCP are evident in the Xinjiang region where Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious groups are targeted and punished. The party-state’s denunciation of said groups leads to “pre-criminal” profiling; coerced collections of biometric and genetic data; rape and forced sterilization of women; and mass internment. Elements of the surveillance and control tactics utilized in Xinjiang are also evident in the regions of Tibet and Inner Mongolia, and even against dissidents in major metropolitan cities such as Beijing and Shanghai.

It is for these reasons that we implore the Department of Commerce to restrict trade with entities in the People’s Republic of China (PRC) whose products and services support egregious crimes against civilians. While the U.S. government has made strides towards restricting business with some PRC entities, efforts are still inadequate with respect to PRC research institutions and their affiliates in light of their contributions to the mass weaponization of surveillance functions.

Potential partners must be thoroughly vetted to maintain our own national security and to outwardly emphasize that we do not condone the immoral behavior of the CCP.

We strongly urge you to add these additional entities to your agency's "Entity List" to preserve U.S. values and national security during business ventures and trade negotiations. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Tom Cotton
United States Senator



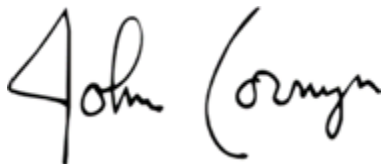
Roger Wicker
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



Todd Young
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Ted Cruz
United States Senator

**Five Companies Affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Automation
for Addition to the BIS Entity List**

1. (Beijing) Vistek Co. Ltd.
2. Beijing IrisKing Co. Ltd.
3. IriStar Technology Co. Ltd.
4. Watrix.ai
5. Beijing ViSystem Corporation Ltd.