Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-4323

January 14, 2021

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer U.S. Trade Representative Office of the U.S. Trade Representative 600 17th Street NW Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

I write with concern regarding the purchase of 130,000 acres in Texas's Val Verde County by GH America Energy to build Blue Hills Wind Farm. GH America Energy is a subsidiary of China's Guanghei Energy Company, owned by Sun Guangxin, a former member of China's People's Liberation Army and the wealthiest person in Xinjiang province. As you know, individuals cannot conduct business or accrue wealth in China without swearing fealty to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Guanghei Energy Company openly flaunts its connections to the CCP. The company's website includes an entire section on "Enterprise Party Building," that includes a "Party Affairs Guide" and "Party Building Dynamics" section.

U.S. intelligence agencies have long warned that China and other adversaries could penetrate U.S. electrical grids through cyberattacks to take bulk-power systems offline. Giving control of portions of Texas's electrical grids to an enterprise linked to the CCP could provide another avenue for our adversary to damage the system and trigger statewide or regionwide outages.

Further, this property is near Laughlin Air Force Base, The U.S. Air Force's largest training base. I am extremely troubled by the potential national security implications of having a company with overt ties to the CCP in such close proximity to this vital base. If they are not already, the CCP could use this site to gather intelligence on Air Force pilot training, as well as United States border security operations. I also share local officials' concerns regarding the impacts of wind turbines on flight training routes around the base.

The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) determined that Blue Hills Wind Farm does not currently pose a national security concern. This decision is incorrect and must be rectified. CFIUS can revisit this project at any time, and I encourage the agency to do so as soon as possible.

I also encourage the Trump Administration to review GH America's acquisition under the authority of President Trump's Executive Order on Securing the United States Bulk-Power

System, issued on May 1, 2020. This Executive Order prohibits any acquisition or installation of bulk-power system electric equipment by entities that pose an undue risk of sabotage or subversion of the U.S. bulk power system, or otherwise poses an unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States or safety of its citizens. It further directs the Secretaries of Energy, Defense, Interior, Homeland Security, as well as the Director of National Intelligence and the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority to identify bulk-power electric equipment subject to the jurisdiction of a foreign adversary and develop recommendations to isolate or replace such items as soon as practicable, while considering overall risk to the bulk-power system.

The Trump Administration has rightly sounded the alarm to our allies regarding Chinese investment in their countries' critical infrastructure, and the United States would be remiss if we did not follow our own advice at home. I urge you to take swift action to address this national security concern.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Tony Gonzales

Member of Congress