

## **Kansas House Commerce Committee**

Testimony in Favor of HB2293 -- Prohibiting the acquisition of critical components of drone technology from countries of concern and the procurement of final or finished goods or services from countries of concern

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My name is Jackie Deal, and I'm testifying in favor of this bill because I've spent my career researching the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP's) military build-up and strategy. I run a defense research firm in Washington, DC, and I'm also a member of the Advisory Board of State Armor, a non-profit dedicated to helping Americans protect themselves against the CCP's interference at the state and local level.

When the Chairman of the CCP, Xi Jinping, came to power over a decade ago, he announced his intent to secure the "China Dream," meaning CCP hegemony over the United States and every other potential opponent.<sup>1</sup>

How is Xi trying to achieve the China Dream? Drones play a key role.

When Chinese drones fly over Kansas, their manufacturers must make the data they collect available on demand to the CCP. Specifically, in 2017, Xi Jinping demanded that all Chinese firms and people secretly share their data with the CCP,<sup>2</sup> so any Chinese company operating in Kansas or with products here would have to comply.

This means that the Chinese military could gain access to detailed terrain maps from Chinese drone flights over Kansas, affording it knowledge of who's who and what's where in the state. Such intelligence would be useful for sabotaging Kansas's infrastructure at the start of a war. And with Taiwan in Xi Jinping's sights, a conflict could unfortunately start at any time.<sup>3</sup>

Additionally, the CCP claims the authority to direct its drone companies to use their software back doors into products to turn them on and off at the CCP's discretion. This has serious implications for the reliability of police drones in Kansas. While Chinese drones are

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thefp.com/p/memo-to-trump-america-first-china-russia-iran>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/Testimony-Doshi-2024-09-24.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.wsj.com/arts-culture/books/why-taiwan-matters-and-the-boiling-moat-danger-island-43c9865b>; <https://www.newsweek.com/china-orders-military-changes-prepare-engaging-warfare-2034787>

cheap and appear to work, if the CCP can toggle critical features and get real-time targeting information from them, how safe is that?

The strategic power that Chinese drones give the CCP is the reason one of the seven most powerful men in China, a member of the party's Politburo Standing Committee, recently visited the headquarters of China's national-champion drone company, DJI, and extended "no-limits support" from Beijing.<sup>4</sup>

This set of issues is also why in January 2024, the FBI and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) jointly issued a warning about Chinese-manufactured drones and encouraged US critical infrastructure owners and operators to avoid them in favor of American-made alternatives.<sup>5</sup> The same month, the Department of Defense re-certified DJI's inclusion on its 1260H list of Chinese Military Companies with which the Pentagon and its contractors are forbidden to do business.<sup>6</sup> (DJI was originally added to the list in 2022.)

But the 1260H designation does not constrain state and local bodies in Kansas. It's up to the Kansas legislature to act to protect residents and infrastructure in the state. For that reason, I'm here to support this bill and appreciate your time and attention.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3238118/shenzhen-trip-dji-visit-chinas-vice-premier-offers-no-limits-support-amid-us-tech-curbs>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/cybersecurity-guidance-chinese-manufactured-uas>

<sup>6</sup> <https://stefanik.house.gov/2024/10/statement-on-former-obama-ag-suing-u-s-government-on-behalf-of-chinese-military-company-dji>