

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 1, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary
The United States Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Bessent;

I write to express my concern that President Trump's recent summit with Xi Jinping failed to produce meaningful progress on the structural economic challenges posed by the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP's) unfair trading practices. At a time when American families are struggling with high costs and American workers continue to lose good-paying jobs, the Administration cannot afford to substitute pageantry for a strategy that rebuilds American economic strength.

President Trump welcomed Xi to Washington with an elaborate state visit and repeatedly described the CCP leader in glowing terms. Yet, when it came time to address the economic issues that directly affect American workers and industry, the summit produced little more than an extension of the existing trade truce. The Department of the Treasury characterized the extension as providing additional time to determine what the two countries can accomplish on the economic front. This extension, however, is a marked failure to hold the CCP to account for not fulfilling the terms of the Busan agreement and demonstrates that it needn't take its commitments to the United States seriously. We have seen this time and time again in Trump negotiated "deals," particularly when the People's Republic of China (PRC) failed to fulfil the terms of the Phase One deal from Trump's first term.

Furthermore, this temporary extension does not to secure meaningful commitments from Beijing to address the underlying problems that have weakened American manufacturing, cost American farmers, and left the U.S. dangerously dependent on the CCP. U.S. manufacturers still rely on critical minerals from the PRC, creating a chokepoint that Beijing can leverage at any moment to force concessions from the U.S. or drag down critical production capabilities. Beijing's subsidized autos threaten the security of the U.S. and threaten the competitiveness of manufacturers playing by the rules. And the PRC continues to export more steel to global markets, threatening a foundational industry in the U.S. that supports everything from infrastructure to defense readiness. The U.S. cannot afford to confuse a cosmetic reduction in tensions with progress in the strategic economic competition with the CCP. Extending a trade truce may postpone the next confrontation, but it does not address the forces that are putting American workers, manufacturers, and economic security at risk.

If the President truly considers the PRC our greatest economic adversary, why then did he not use this opportunity to press Xi for concrete commitments to reduce their industrial overcapacity and unfair trade practices? If Beijing's control over critical minerals poses a threat to American manufacturing, what did the President demand from Xi to ensure reliable access to those materials? And if the PRC continues to expand its industrial capacity while American factories close and workers lose

their jobs, what is the Administration's plan to ensure that the U.S does not continue to fall further behind?

At a time when inflation is still running high and American families are struggling to afford daily life, they do not need another presidential photo opportunity with Xi Jinping. They need an Administration that takes the strategic economic competition with the CCP seriously and takes every opportunity to promote the health of the U.S. economy. My recent experience traveling through the American industrial heartland underscores the urgency. Workers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan are confronting layoffs, plant closures, and the continued movement of production overseas. Meanwhile, Beijing continues to strengthen its position in the industries and supply chains upon which America's economic and national security depend.

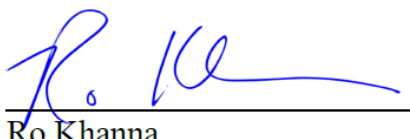
It is difficult to reconcile these realities with the spectacle of the President rolling out the red carpet for Xi while failing to secure meaningful commitments on the economic threats confronting American workers. The summit should have been an opportunity to demonstrate that the U.S. has a strategy for competing with the CCP. Instead, it appears to have demonstrated the opposite.

We respectfully request answers to the following questions no later than October 29, 2026:

1. What economic issues did President Trump raise with President Xi?
 1. Please provide a detailed account of the discussion regarding industrial overcapacity, dumping, state subsidies, forced technology transfer, critical minerals, and other unfair economic practices.
2. Why did the Administration not seek to make progress on more substantive commitments at the summit?
3. Has this more cooperative orientation in the Administration's approach to Beijing been formalized in any policy or strategy document?
4. To what extent did the Administration seek input from stakeholders such as organized labor, Congress, industry, and civil society to inform the agenda for Xi's visit?
5. To what extent will public input be sought for further Board of Trade actions like the one announced on September 27, 2026?

American workers need more than reassuring rhetoric and presidential pageantry. They need a government that recognizes the scale of China's industrial strategy and responds with a strategy of its own. The Administration should explain to Congress and the American people what that strategy is—and why President Trump did not use this summit to demand meaningful commitments from Xi Jinping on the economic threats we face today.

Sincerely.



Ro Khanna

Ranking Member

House Select Committee on
the CCP