



SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CCP

DEMOCRATS | RANKING MEMBER RO KHANNA

September 28, 2026

The Honorable Jay Clayton
Director
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
1500 Tysons McLean Drive
McLean, VA 22102

Dear Director Clayton:

Last week, I convened the first-ever congressional hearing calling for a binding, enforceable, and verifiable treaty between the United States and the People's Republic of China (PRC) on catastrophic AI risks. **At my hearing, both Dr. Geoffrey Hinton and Lt. General Shanahan stated that they do not believe the U.S. Government currently has sufficient capabilities to monitor advanced AI models at frontier labs.** This is extremely concerning given the growing risk of humans losing control of AI. The strategic interests of the U.S. and the PRC could not be more different on many issues, but on this discrete concern, it benefits neither country for humanity to lose control of our destiny.

In recent months, concerns like the potential for a loss of control scenario have spurred leading American AI labs to call for pacing the frontier. At my hearing last week, as well as in supplemental letters to China's leading AI labs I sent today, I called for the entire world to participate in a responsible slowdown of AI development until societal safeguards can catch up to this technology. A binding, enforceable, and verifiable U.S.-China AI treaty is an imperative for humanity, and the Intelligence Community has an important role in informing our nation's leaders regarding why this pursuit demands such urgency. The Intelligence Community also has an important role to play in helping ensure an eventual treaty is complied with.

Accordingly, I am writing to request that the Intelligence Community produce an official assessment of how effectively the U.S. Government would respond to a loss of control scenario. Absent the coordinated global action I called for at this week's hearing, we must immediately establish governmental protocols and frameworks for what is an increasingly real risk. Additionally, in furtherance of a verifiable U.S.-China AI treaty, I am also requesting that you coordinate and submit to Congress an intelligence assessment regarding General Secretary Xi's and the CCP's understanding of and approach toward catastrophic AI risks, including loss of control, misalignment, and the misuse of advanced models to unleash biological, chemical, or nuclear harms. This assessment will assist my Committee and eventually the Executive Branch in advancing the arguments for such a verifiable agreement that we heard at Wednesday's hearing. Finally, I am urging you to direct ODNI's technical and analytical resources towards developing capabilities to effectively monitor PRC frontier labs.

History will look back at this moment, the choices made by humanity as we potentially approach the Rubicon of superintelligence or AGI, and either celebrate our foresight or condemn our inaction. Our leaders, including the membership of my Committee, need to be informed of our



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government's readiness for these forthcoming risks and the PRC's approach to them. I respectfully request that you prepare and share both of the aforementioned assessments by no later than December 1, 2026.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Khanna', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Ro Khanna
Ranking Member
House Select Committee on the CCP