

United States Senate

August 5, 2025

Mr. Frank D. Yeary
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Intel Corporation
2200 Mission College Blvd
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Dear Mr. Yeary:

I write to express concern about the security and integrity of Intel's operations and its potential impact on U.S. national security. In March 2025, Intel appointed Lip-Bu Tan as its new CEO. Mr. Tan reportedly controls dozens of Chinese companies and has a stake in hundreds of Chinese advanced-manufacturing and chip firms. At least eight of these companies reportedly have ties to the Chinese People's Liberation Army.¹

Mr. Tan was most recently the CEO of Cadence Design Systems, a company that makes electronic design automation (EDA) technology, which is a key enabler of advanced chip design. Last week, Cadence pleaded guilty to illegally selling its products to a Chinese military university and transferring its technology to an associated Chinese semiconductor company without obtaining licenses.² These illegal activities occurred under Mr. Tan's tenure.

Intel was awarded nearly \$8 billion from the CHIPS and Science Act, the largest grant to a single company.³ Intel is required to be a responsible steward of American taxpayer dollars and to comply with applicable security regulations. Mr. Tan's associations raise questions about Intel's ability to fulfill these obligations. In the interest of transparency and national security, I respectfully request a response to the following questions by August 15, 2025.

1. Was the Board aware of Cadence's subpoenas before hiring Mr. Tan as CEO? If so, what measures were taken to address concerns about Cadence's activities under Mr. Tan?
2. Did the Board require Mr. Tan to divest from his positions in semiconductor firms linked to the Chinese Communist Party or the People's Liberation Army and any other concerning entities in China that could pose a conflict of interest for Intel's CEO?
3. Given Intel's contract under the Secure Enclave program, has Mr. Tan disclosed any remaining investments, professional roles, or other ties to Chinese companies to the U.S. government?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Tom Cotton
United States Senator

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/technology/intel-ceo-invested-hundreds-chinese-companies-some-with-military-ties-2025-04-10/>

² <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/cadence-design-systems-agrees-plead-guilty-and-pay-over-140-million-unlawfully-exporting>

³ https://www.nist.gov/chips/chips-america-awards?sort_by=date&page=2