

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 14, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

We write in support of the Commerce Department's investigation of TP-Link, a state-sponsored networking equipment company, and urge you to take swift action to prohibit further sales of TP-Link networking products in the United States. TP-Link's deep ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), use of predatory pricing to eliminate trusted U.S. alternatives, and role in embedding foreign surveillance and destructive capabilities into our networks render it a clear and present danger.

Chinese state actors have exploited TP-Link small and home office (SOHO) networking devices — including Wi-Fi routers, cellular gateways, and mobile hotspots — to wage cyber-attacks in the United States.¹ CCP agents commonly exploit SOHO routers because those systems have ideal bandwidth and computing power for sustained cyber activities but lack additional layers of security common in enterprise networks. TP-Link is also subject to China's National Security Law, giving the CCP access to U.S. systems before American authorities know a vulnerability exists. In fact, TP-Link is the only router company that refuses to engage in industry efforts to remediate Chinese state-sponsored botnets.²

TP-Link's pricing practices have triggered a Department of Justice criminal antitrust probe.³ TP-Link's predatory pricing, coupled with its circumvention of tariffs, imminently threatens U.S. competition in a market critical to our national security. TP-Link has rapidly captured nearly 60 percent of the U.S. retail router and Wi-Fi system market while expanding the CCP's cyber arsenal.² The CCP uses SOHO equipment for ongoing espionage and targeting of critical infrastructure to pre-position itself for destructive attacks on Americans and communication channels with our allies.³

For these reasons, Commerce should immediately prohibit future sales of TP-Link SOHO networking equipment in the United States. Each day we fail to act, the CCP wins while American competitors suffer, and American security remains at risk.

¹ <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/us-government-disrupts-botnet-peoples-republic-china-used-conceal-hacking-critical>

² <https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/us-ban-china-router-tp-link-systems-7d7507e6>

³ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-04-24/router-maker-tp-link-faces-us-criminal-antitrust-investigation>

² <https://www.govtech.com/security/national-security-fears-prompt-federal-probe-of-tp-link>

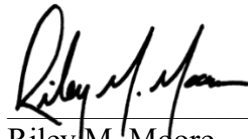
³ <https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/cybersecurity-advisories/aa24-038a>

We thank you for your ongoing work to secure and safeguard America's Information and Communications Technology and Services supply chain. This work is critical to our national security, and we commend President Trump's Executive Order 13873 to allow the Commerce Department to prohibit transactions in our country that pose unacceptable risk to American national security.

Sincerely,



Tom Cotton
United States Senator



Riley M. Moore
Member of Congress



John Barrasso
United States Senator



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
United States Senator



Abraham J. Hamadeh
Member of Congress



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



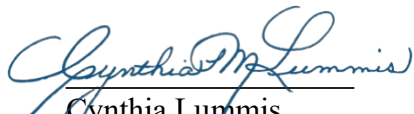
John Rose
Member of Congress



Josh Hawley
United States Senator



Jim Justice
United States Senator



Cynthia Lummis
United States Senator



Bernie Moreno
United States Senator



Pete Ricketts
United States Senator



James E. Risch
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Eric Schmitt
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator