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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2026

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

This letter is to request information regarding personnel actions within the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), specifically the Office of Information and Communications Technology and Services (OICTS), and how the Department of Commerce intends to ensure continuity of its national security mission.

Recent public reporting indicates that senior leadership within OICTS was removed or reassigned following internal pressure, including the placement of a senior official on administrative leave.¹ These developments have raised serious concerns about the Department's commitment to sustaining expertise, momentum, and enforcement capacity in addressing technology threats posed by the People's Republic of China (PRC) and other foreign adversaries.

As you know, OICTS was established during President Trump's first term and has been widely viewed on a bipartisan basis as a critical office for securing U.S. technology supply chains, communications infrastructure, and Americans' sensitive data. The office played a central role in developing the rule restricting internet-connected passenger vehicles and related hardware and software with links to China or Russia, based on clear national security and data-security risks.

Given these implications, I request written responses to the following questions by February 13, 2026:

- What was the basis for the recent removal of senior OICTS leadership?

¹ Somerville, H. & Ramkumar, A. "Trump Administration Pushes Out Key Officials Focused on China Tech Threat." *The Wall Street Journal*. 23 Jan. 2026. Retrieved from: <https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/trump-administration-pushes-out-key-officials-focused-on-china-tech-threat-cd2dde3f>

- How is the Department ensuring continuity of mission, expertise, and enforcement capacity within BIS?
- What are BIS's current priorities for mitigating national security risks posed by PRC-linked technologies, including in telecommunications, networking equipment, and other data-enabled systems?
- What is the status of implementation of the connected passenger vehicle rule, and does the Department intend to move forward with additional rules under consideration, including those related to heavy trucks, buses, or other vehicle categories with foreign adversary technology linkages?
- Have any investigations, rulemakings, or enforcement actions related to foreign adversary technologies been paused, delayed, narrowed, or deprioritized since the recent personnel changes? If so, please explain why.
- Will the Department commit to briefing relevant Congressional Committees on OICTS leadership changes and BIS's technology security agenda going forward?

I have consistently supported BIS's mission to protect the United States from foreign technological threats, including prior Department of Commerce actions to address risks posed by connected vehicles and communications technologies. These technologies are deeply embedded in our daily lives and critical infrastructure and are no longer hypothetical risks. Allowing foreign adversary technologies to enter our domestic market threatens not only consumer privacy, but U.S. economic security and national resilience.

Thank you, and I look forward to your response and continued engagement on how the Department will ensure that BIS and OICTS remain fully empowered to carry out their statutory responsibilities.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress