

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

May 2, 2023

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretaries Yellen and Raimondo:

I write to express concern with Ford Motor Company's ("Ford") recent joint venture with the Peoples' Republic of China's (PRC) Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt Company and PT Vale Indonesia, and request you implement an outbound investment screening and review mechanism consistent with the framework provided in the bipartisan *National Critical Capabilities Defense Act*. I also urge you to scrutinize Ford's joint venture promptly upon the establishment of an outbound investment screening and review mechanism.

As you know, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has worked tirelessly to expand its influence through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and by coopting multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations, and government officials to carry out actions that are in the strategic interest of the PRC. The CCP's strategy has been largely successful in establishing influence over nation-states, businesses, natural resources, and intellectual property, and has established the PRC as the greatest political and strategic adversary to the United States in history. The CCP has been so effective at gaining control over the levers of international power and commerce, that it no longer feels the need to obfuscate the nature of its activities.

This is apparent in Ford's joint venture with Huayou and Vale. Huayou is a Chinese corporation that participates in the PRC's BRI to advance its geopolitical strategy, peddle CCP influence, and gain control of critical minerals and natural resources around the world in support of the PRC's strategic interests. The company is also credibly implicated in human trafficking, child labor, and slave labor in the Democratic Republic of Congo.¹ Vale, a Brazil-based company, has a long history of supporting the BRI and cooperating with the PRC and CCP-controlled companies. In a statement published on the Ford website, Huayou's Senior Vice President, George Fang, characterized the joint venture as "one of the flagship projects under the Belt and Road Initiative."² The participation of Ford, a once great American company, in advancing the grand geopolitical strategy of the PRC cannot be ignored.

¹ <https://www.internationalrightsadvocates.org/cases/cobalt>

² <https://media.ford.com/content/fordmedia/fna/us/en/news/2023/03/30/pt-vale-indonesia-and-huayou-sign-nickel-agreement-with-ford-mot.html>

You both have stated your openness to establishing an outbound investment screening and review mechanism similar to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to crack down on American financial investments that support malignant foreign ventures. I hope you will work to expeditiously implement such a policy mechanism to hold Ford accountable for cooperating with human traffickers and slavers in advancing the PRC's geopolitical strategy, to the detriment of American economic development and national security.

Lastly, I am deeply concerned by the prospect that the PRC and other strategic adversaries of the United States will benefit from tax incentives and funding opportunities enacted through the *Inflation Reduction Act*. Given Ford's clear subservience to the CCP, I urge you to ensure that Ford is unable to benefit from any of these incentives.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Rubio', is centered below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator

CC:
The Honorable Jennifer Granholm, Secretary of Energy