

May 2, 2023

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
9500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Garland:

I write with grave concern regarding the Ford Motor Company's ("Ford") conduct in advancing the strategic interests of the Peoples' Republic of China (PRC), to the detriment of the national security and national interest of the United States. Specifically, I urge you to launch an investigation into Ford's executive leadership to determine if they have illegally acted as unregistered foreign agents of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Ford's efforts to increase the exposure of the United States to depend on supply chains controlled by companies subservient to the CCP has grown more brazen and visible over time, especially with regard to critical minerals and electric vehicle (EV) batteries. In February, Ford announced a licensing agreement with CCP national champion Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Limited ("CATL"), and just last month, announced plans to offshore the production of the Nautilus, a product of Ford subsidiary Lincoln, to the PRC. To some, it may seem Ford is simply continuing the tired corporate doctrine of offshoring supply chains to lower payroll costs and avoid employing Americans, but the situation appears to be even more egregious. Ford is an active and willing participant in efforts to advance the strategic interests of the CCP and undermine the United States.

On March 30, 2023, Ford entered into a joint venture with the PRC's Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt Company and PT Vale Indonesia to develop a \$4.5 billion nickel processing facility in Indonesia for the production of EV batteries. Huayou is a PRC-based corporation that participates in the PRC's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to advance the PRC's 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. 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."¹ As you know, the BRI is one of the primary mechanisms the CCP uses to spread its influence around the world and gain control of critical infrastructure and natural

¹ <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>

resources. It should be of the utmost importance to hold American citizens accountable for explicitly acting in the strategic interest of our country's primary geopolitical adversary.

The Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) requires individuals under the direction or control of a foreign principle, who act at the behest of a foreign principle or an agent of a foreign principle, within the United States to register as a foreign agent. In light of Ford's explicit complicity in the BRI, one of Beijing's principle geopolitical strategies, I fear there may be individuals within the executive leadership of Ford who are subservient to the CCP and acting as unregistered foreign agents of the PRC in their meetings and outreach to U.S. government officials. I urge the U.S. Department of Justice to determine if this is the case and to take appropriate legal action against those who are in violation of FARA.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Rubio', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator