

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

July 14, 2022

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

The Honorable Lloyd Austin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Yellen and Secretary Austin:

We request that the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) conduct a review of Chinese food manufacturer Fufeng Group's recent purchase of roughly 370 acres of land near Grand Forks, North Dakota. Public reports suggest that CFIUS has expressed interest in this transaction and that the City of Grand Forks has requested the company make a voluntary filing with CFIUS. We believe that a full CFIUS review would clarify whether the purchase of this land, by Fufeng Group, carries national security implications.

In November 2021, the City of Grand Forks announced that Fufeng Group had selected the municipality as the location for its new wet corn mill. The Chinese company, known for its monosodium glutamate production within the People's Republic of China (PRC), purchased 370 acres in Grand Forks' agribusiness park. This property is approximately 12 miles from Grand Forks Air Force Base, which has led to concern that Fufeng operations could provide cover for PRC surveillance or interference with the missions located at that installation, given Fufeng Group's reported ties to the Chinese Communist Party.

We note that local officials are seeking input from federal authorities about any national security implications of this project. Local officials have discussed the matter with the U.S. Air Force and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. According to published reports, they also have encouraged Fufeng to make a voluntary CFIUS filing.

PRC investments in the United States demand scrutiny. We therefore urge you, through CFIUS, to determine whether this project has national security implications and inform us when such a review is completed.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



John Hoeven
U.S. Senator



Kevin Cramer
U.S. Senator