

United States Senate

January 16, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

I write to bring attention to a pressing matter of national security.

Over the past several years, Chinese criminal organizations have taken advantage of states that have legalized marijuana. In my state of Oklahoma, law enforcement has seen an influx of Chinese nationals enter the state, buy inexpensive farmland, and grow illicit marijuana. These criminal organizations also often engage in labor trafficking, sex trafficking, money laundering, and other drug-related crimes. They also engage in violent crime. In 2022, a Chinese national executed four people on a marijuana farm in Kingfisher, Oklahoma.¹ Law enforcement in my state have found that many of these criminal groups have direct financial backing from China.

It has come to my attention that the social media application WeChat is often used by these Chinese criminal actors. WeChat is a messaging, payment, and social-media application owned and operated by the Chinese company Tencent Holdings Ltd. WeChat is routinely used to facilitate drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, and coordination among Chinese criminal networks. U.S. law enforcement does not have access to WeChat's server or any of the encrypted communications and transactions that occur on this app. It is an investigative black box, which makes it uniquely appealing to Chinese criminals operating on American soil.

Your administration has recognized this threat in the past. On August 6, 2020, you issued Executive Order 13943. This Executive Order correctly identified WeChat as a national security risk due to its vulnerability to control by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). That action demonstrated wise, forward-thinking leadership in protecting Americans from technologies controlled by foreign adversaries.

As you know, enforcement of Executive Order 13943 was stopped by federal courts, due to concerns regarding statutory authority and the First Amendment. Those injunctions prevented the executive branch from fully addressing the risks posed by WeChat and the bad actors that regularly use WeChat to facilitate criminal activity.

¹ ABC News, [Man charged with murdering 4 people at Hennessey marijuana farm pleads guilty](#), 10 February, 2024.

Since then, Congress passed the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act as Division H of P.L. 118-50. This law establishes a clear process by which the President can address applications controlled by foreign adversaries. The law provides the

President explicit authority to identify and act against companies whose ownership or control by foreign adversaries poses an unacceptable risk to U.S. national security.

I request that you exercise your authority under the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act to determine that WeChat qualifies as a covered company under the statute. Importantly, the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act has already withstood a constitutional challenge in *TikTok Inc. v. Garland*.

Using this authority to designate WeChat as a covered company under the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act would advance U.S. national security interests, protect American citizens from foreign criminals operating inside our borders, and help our law enforcement fight against Chinese criminal networks operating in my state and across the country.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support for law enforcement. Your willingness to take a hard stance against criminal activity, drug trafficking, and malign influence from foreign adversaries has made America safer. I look forward to working with you and your administration on this issue to continue our shared efforts to fight crime and combat transnational criminal networks.

In God We Trust,



James Lankford

United States Senator

Cc: Attorney General Pam Bondi
Secretary Marco Rubio
Secretary Scott Bessent
Director Tulsi Gabbard