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**Congress of the United States**  
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COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY

September 21, 2022

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland  
Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

We are writing to highlight the White House's continued entanglement with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Specifically, we are requesting your office investigate President Biden's appointment of John Podesta to serve as the White House Senior Advisor for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation, a new position within the White House Office established under the Inflation Reduction Act.

We have spent the past few years requesting proper oversight over President Biden's family members and White House officials, who have routinely used their positions to benefit from enemy countries, both personally and financially, at the expense of taxpayers. Recently with the sale of oil from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to a Chinese company affiliated with Hunter Biden, such self-aggrandizement came at the expense of our energy independence, where U.S. crude inventory in the (SPR) fell to the lowest level last month in more than 35 years<sup>1</sup>. This time, we fear that John Podesta, one of President's top advisors, is profiting off the safety and security of Americans. Podesta has not only been linked to high-ranking CCP officials, but more concerningly is the brother of Huawei's top U.S. lobbyist, Tony Podesta.

John Podesta's appointment on September 2, 2022 came only a week before the Administration announced their rollback on Trump-era restrictions on Huawei, a notoriously harmful Chinese telecommunication company, through their interim rule: "Authorization of Certain Items to Entities on the Entity List in the Context of Specific Standards Activities".<sup>2</sup> According to public disclosure forms released at the beginning of this year, Huawei paid Tony Podesta \$1 Million in 2021 to lobby the Biden administration on its behalf.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, the timing of these actions does not seem coincidental and may suggest John Podesta advised the Department of Commerce to ease sanctions at the peril of the safety of the American people so that his brother could have another massive pay-day.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-crude-spr-hits-lowest-level-since-january-1985-2022-08-22/#:~:text=HOUSTON%2C%20Aug%2022%20\(Reuters\),from%20the%20Department%20of%20Energy](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-crude-spr-hits-lowest-level-since-january-1985-2022-08-22/#:~:text=HOUSTON%2C%20Aug%2022%20(Reuters),from%20the%20Department%20of%20Energy).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/documents/about-bis/newsroom/press-releases/3127-2022-09-08-bis-press-release-standards-rule/file>

<sup>3</sup> <https://nypost.com/2022/01/21/tony-podesta-made-1m-lobbying-biden-wh-for-chinas-huawei-telecom-firm/>

The Chinese telecommunication's behemoth, Huawei, has often been accused of using its software to spy on the U.S. In fact, the FBI under your leadership affirmed the dangers of Huawei, previously determining their equipment was capable of apprehending and disrupting highly restricted military communications, including those used to monitor our country's nuclear weapons arsenal.<sup>4</sup> This is one of the many reasons why the Trump Administration blacklisted Huawei and several of its non-American affiliates' access to critical U.S. suppliers and 5G networks.

If John Podesta's Huawei ties are not enough reason to galvanize your department to act, John Podesta himself has also been tied directly to the CCP. According to email correspondence provided by Fox News reporting, Mr. Podesta referred to the Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Tung Chee-hwa as his "friend from Hong Kong". The two have also maintained frequent communication dating back to 2015. Furthermore, Podesta is currently sitting on the "U.S.-China 2022 Steering Committee" of the China-United States Exchange Foundation (CUSEF), an organization that Tung founded and has funded propaganda operations abroad including at several public universities in the United States.

In his new role at the White House, Mr. Podesta will oversee approximately \$370 billion in climate spending. Therefore, it essential that these dollars are being stewarded in the public's best interest and he is not abusing his position for personal gain, or to the benefit of the Chinese Government. As such, we ask that you please provide the information listed below no later than October 1, 2022:

1. All documents and communications between the Executive Office of the President, White House Office of Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation, Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security relating to the interim rule: "Authorization of Certain Items to Entities on the Entity List in the Context of Specific Standards Activities".
2. A written record of John Podesta's employment history for the past two years.
3. A copy of John Podesta's signed Ethic's pledge pursuant to Executive Order No. 13989.
4. Proof of Tony Podesta's registration with the Department under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), or letter of inquiry to Tony Podesta on registration obligations under FARA.
5. All records signifying Huawei and Tony Podesta's compliance with the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

Director Wray has referred to China as the greatest long-term threat to our nation's intellectual property, and our economic vitality. Provocative military demonstrations in the Taiwan Strait following Speaker Pelosi's visit to Taiwan prove China remains dead set on undermining Democracy in the region and US-Taiwan relations, ultimately weakening our global position and the national sovereignty of our strongest allies. As Members of Congress, we

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2022/07/23/politics/fbi-investigation-huawei-china-defense-department-communications-nuclear/index.html>

demand full transparency to ensure the Biden White House is complying with the law and is not selling out American privacy and our national security to foreign adversaries. Therefore, the most recent accusations surrounding the Podesta brothers' personal and monetary connection with the Chinese government deserves your fullest attention.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Please contact my Washington D.C. Office at (202)-225-5501 with any follow-up questions or to coordinate sending the requested documentation. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress



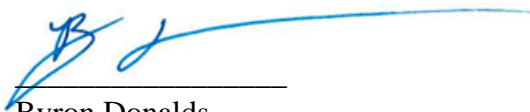
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