

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 19, 2024

Alan F. Estevez
Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Under Secretary Estevez:

I write to urge the Bureau of Industry and Security to work quickly to evaluate comments, make any necessary revisions, and finalize your proposed rule banning certain vehicles and technologies controlled or vulnerable to manipulation to our adversaries to be imported or sold in the United States (Docket No. 240919-0245).

I applaud the Administration for its important work to protect American citizens and critical infrastructure from the serious national security threat posed particularly by Chinese and Russian vehicles and their enabling technologies. We cannot allow technologies from foreign entities of concern on our roads that can store and share Americans' personal data, commit espionage, and even manipulate our cars. As identified by the Bureau and other sources, finished vehicles manufactured or controlled by Chinese Communist Party-backed companies present a heightened national security risk, adding to longstanding concerns about how China's unfair trade practices threaten U.S. economic competitiveness, intellectual property, and automotive manufacturing.

Experts have sounded the alarm regarding the control of data for connected vehicles manufactured by companies incorporated in China, particularly when it comes to the potential for these vehicles to enable the unauthorized collection, transmission, and storage of Americans' data, as well as serve as potential vectors for espionage or disruption of critical infrastructure here in the United States. Furthermore, the CCP has made clear that they intend to make the 21st century a "Chinese Century," with domination of the global automotive market being a key piece of their strategy. The United States has a responsibility, for the sake of the next generation of Americans and the world at large, to ensure that does not become a reality.

The Department of Commerce—and the Office of Information and Communications Technology and Services in particular—is at the forefront of the Administration's effort to protect and defend Americans from vehicles that could compromise our national security. I welcomed the work of your team in recent months to propose a comprehensive rule that protects against the urgent and significant national security threat posed by the sale and import of vehicles and vehicle technology controlled or vulnerable to manipulation by our adversaries. This rule would help improve the security of the U.S. automotive supply chain, keep the United States at the forefront of global mobility innovation, and create more good-paying jobs here at home.

Now that the public comment period for the proposed rule has closed, I urge you to quickly consider stakeholder input and take the necessary steps to finalize this rule. I look forward to our continued work together to secure our supply chains and support American manufacturing on a level playing field.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

CC: Elizabeth Cannon, Executive Director, Office of Information and Communications Technology and Services, Bureau of Industry and Security