

NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER: **KEEP CHICOM HANDS OFF OUR LANDS.**

BACKGROUND. Red China systematically is buying American farm land in order to meet increased domestic food demand and prop up its ag sector crippled by decreasing arable land and heavy pollution. Rich Chinese investors, at the behest of the Chicom Regime, are gobbling up properties, sometimes to provide housing for family members attending U.S. universities or to stash savings overseas. A recent congressional report has exposed this situation and is raising security concerns, adding to the growing tension between the U.S. and Red China. Conservative congressmen are calling for a federal investigation of this farmland investment, a threat to our national security. 128 congressmen allege that current Biden Regime efforts to track Chicom investments are unreliable and could leave America vulnerable. Chicom ownership of our farm land is a threat to our food security. Congress demands that the Government Accountability Office report on the nature of this threat to our food supply and advise Congress how to best counter it.¹ Chicom American ag land holdings have increased by 100% in the last decade. By 2020, Chicom investments held \$2 billion of American ag land, 200,000+ acres. Chinese ownership of U.S. farmland grew substantially in 2013, when Shuanghui International Holdings bought Smithfield Foods in a deal that included farms, hogs, equipment, technology, water rights, and intellectual property.



THE BILL. Cong. Dan Newhouse (Wash.) has introduced **HR 809**, the Prohibition of Agricultural Land for the People's Republic of China Act. This bill requires the President to prohibit nonresident aliens, foreign businesses, agents, trustees, or fiduciaries associated with the Red Chinese government from (1) purchasing public or private agricultural (including ranch land) real estate or ag businesses located in the U.S., or (2) participating in Dept. of Agriculture programs unrelated to food and safety regulatory requirements like food inspections. The bill currently is in the House Agriculture and Foreign Affairs Committees, awaiting a vote to advance it to the full House for debate. “We hail from the greatest country in the world, and there is simply no reason we should be reliant on a communist country like China for our food supply,” Rep. Newhouse said, “If we begin to cede the responsibility over our food supply chain to an adversarial foreign nation, we could be forced into exporting food that is grown within our own borders and meant for our own use.” “By bolstering American agriculture, we can create jobs, strengthen our economy, and enhance our national supply chain into the future,” said Rep. Newhouse, “Simply put, we should be taking every action we can to strengthen our domestic production while preventing our adversaries from gaining a foothold in our supply chain, and I am proud to be leading that charge in Congress.”²

SUPPORTERS. A number of industry groups publicly have pledged support for restricting Chicom farmland ownership, including the American Farm Bureau and Family Farm Action, an advocacy group for family-owned farms.

OPPONENTS. The Biden Sec. of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, expressed doubt how such restrictions could become implemented in a way that is fair and legally sound for foreign investors. Other Biden officials worry about possible xenophobia against Chinese-Americans here and isolationism fever.



OUR REASONING. Unfriendly foreign ownership of ag land threatens small family farms and the total health of the ag supply chain. The Chicoms are purchasing land close to U.S. missile silos, air force bases, and other military bases. Two deals seem to enhance the current worry: the purchase over 5 years of 140,000 acres in Texas by businesses controlled by a billionaire Chinese real estate developer, with 15,000 acres set aside for a wind farm that would supply the state with electricity, and the 2022 purchase by Fufeng Group Ltd. of 370 acres in Grand Forks, N.D., to operate a corn

milling operation. Both sites sit near U.S. military installations. The USDA foreign transaction reporting is wholly inadequate. Congress enacted a law in 1978 to track farmland purchases during a wave of concern about wealthy Saudis and investors from other oil-rich nations, but experts say that law needs updating. The Farm Service Agency collects self-reported data and publishes the information annually in a report to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, but it pleads understaffing in some years and claims it lacks the technology to process the information it receives. The

¹ Bill Gertz, The Washington Times, Protecting Farmland: America pressed to weed China out of U.S. agriculture acreage, April 2, 2023.

² Ripon Advance News Service, China banned from buying U.S. farmland under Newhouse-sponsored legislation, May 31, 2022.

nonpartisan Congressional Research Service said the USDA and the Government Accountability Office have identified shortcomings such as incomplete or inaccurate data, limited owner transparency, and identity havens that obscure the true nationality of a buyer.³ Another pressing issue is the intellectual property concern surrounding foreign ownership, in which Red [China could reproduce high-yield seeds and pesticides while circumventing our intellectual property law](#). A USDA spokesman said that curbing access to USDA programs will not reduce foreign investment, because the value of the farmland as an asset outweighs the benefits of being eligible for farm programs.⁴ USDA has failed to assess or follow through to penalize failures to report foreign acquisition of U.S. agricultural land between 2015 and 2018, which is required under the 1978 Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA). Despite this law, it largely puts the responsibility on the purchasing party to self-report land purchases, and fines rarely levied for misreporting or failing to report. The U.S. is engaged in a great power struggle with Red China, and we must respond with tough policies that will protect our farmland and food supply chain. Members of both parties increasingly see Beijing and the Chinese Communist Party as threats to the U.S. Warnings offer farm state lawmakers an opportunity to persevere with proposals they have pushed for several years that would treat foreign control of farmland and businesses as national security threats equivalent to those posed by foreign ownership of cutting-edge technology companies and intellectual property. Though Chinese land owned in the U.S. is less than that owned by other foreign nations, the growth in Chinese ownership is part of an overall trend of Red China rapidly buying up other country's farmland for more than a decade. In a speech to the conservative Heritage Foundation, former Vice-President Mike Pence said, "America cannot allow China to control our food supply." During his speech, Pence called on President Joe Biden to "end all farm subsidies for land owned by foreign nationals. When this land changes hands, they're going to gobble it up."⁵



TAKE ACTION NOW. Chicom ownership of our farmland nationwide presents unfair competition with American farmers, as huge acreages bought, and their owners have no loyalty to our nation or its economy. Acreages owned near our military bases lend themselves to spying, sabotage, and enemy infiltration, and Chicom mischief could hinder our food supply line. Biden Regime defenders of Red China and others who have economic interests there seek to downplay the danger to our national and economic securities, because they profit from Chicom connections, e.g., Hunter Biden. Using the information above, lobby your congressman to vote [HR 809](#) out of committee

and onto the House floor, where conservative congressmen can pass it into law. Email netaxpayers@gmail.com for congressional contact information and to join our NTF *Congress Watch Project*.

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³ Ellyn Ferguson, [Gap in data complicates legislation to keep China off U.S. farms](#), March 15, 2023.

⁴ Adam Goldstein, [Limits on foreign ownership of U.S. farmland gain support in Congress, despite skepticism](#), March 20, 2023.

⁵ Ryan Morgan, American Military News. [China is buying billions in U.S. farmland and lawmakers are scrambling to try to stop them](#), July 20, 2021.