

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5074  
Minority (202) 225-5051

October 17, 2024

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm:

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (Select Subcommittee) is investigating the origins of COVID-19, including the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) role in obscuring the truth regarding the initial outbreak. In the interest of pandemic preparedness, the Select Subcommittee is also highly concerned about the CCP's potential influence and infiltration of American scientific institutions and corporations. Accordingly, we write today regarding disturbing information indicating the Department may be putting American national security at risk.

Specifically, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability and the Select Subcommittee have uncovered information indicating that Los Alamos National Laboratory is using machinery linked to a Chinese company called Beijing Genomics Institute (BGI). The Department of Defense has formally identified BGI as a "Chinese military company" operating in the United States as part of the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) modernization goals.<sup>1</sup>

Earlier this year, the U.S. House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to pass the BIOSECURE Act and referred it to the Senate. This Act is designed to ensure that American patient data and taxpayer dollars do not fall into the hands of foreign adversaries' biotechnology companies by prohibiting Federal contracting with these companies—including BGI.<sup>2</sup>

If there is in fact a BGI machine at Los Alamos, the U.S. Government's most advanced scientific institution—one that is directly involved in investigating and protecting against biosecurity threats including COVID-19—may be putting American national security at risk by using machinery linked to the CCP and PLA. This highly concerning revelation is further indication of the grave importance of the BIOSECURE Act in protecting American interests going forward.

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<sup>1</sup> Release, U.S. Dep't of Defense, DOD Releases List of People's Republic of China (RPC) Military Companies in Accordance With Section 1260H of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Jan. 31, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> BIOSECURE Act, H.R. 8333, 118<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2024).

The Select Subcommittee writes today to verify the information in our possession and to understand the scope of the Department's apparent usage of equipment, software, or other products which were manufactured by or are linked to companies associated with the PLA. Therefore, please produce the following documents and information as soon as possible but no later than October 31, 2024:

1. All documents and communications indicating the Department's use of equipment, software, or any other product which were manufactured by or are linked to "Beijing Genomics Institute."
2. All documents and communications indicating the Department's use of equipment, software, or any other product which were manufactured by or are linked to any other company known by the Government to be connected to the Chinese People's Liberation Army or Chinese Communist Party.

In addition to the requested documents, the Select Subcommittee requests a briefing, classified or otherwise, regarding the presence of a BGI machine at Los Alamos no later than October 31, 2024.

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic is authorized to investigate "the origins of the Coronavirus pandemic, including but not limited to the Federal Government's funding of gain-of function research" and "the implementation or effectiveness of any Federal law or regulation applied, enacted, or under consideration to address the coronavirus pandemic and prepare for future pandemic" under H. Res. 5.<sup>3</sup> Further, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability is authorized to investigate "any matter" at "any time" pursuant to House Rule X. To ask any follow up or related questions please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5074.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Raul Ruiz, M.D., Ranking Member  
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

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<sup>3</sup> H. Res. 5 § 4(a)(2023).