

United States Senate

December 19, 2025

The Honorable Chris Pilkerton
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Assistant Secretary Pilkerton,

I write to highlight a matter of significant national security concern and encourage urgent attention by the Department of the Treasury and the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). Specifically, I wish to bring to your attention a 2017 foreign acquisition of real estate located directly adjacent to Whiteman Air Force Base in Knob Noster, Missouri, for potential CFIUS review.¹

A recent investigation revealed that the Knob Noster Trailer Park, situated less than one mile from the Whiteman Air Force Base's northern perimeter, is owned—through layers of intricately webbed corporate entities—by individuals with ties to Chinese intelligence operations.² The proximity of this property to one of the United States's most sensitive military installations raises immediate concerns regarding surveillance, electronic interference, and espionage. And it appears that the parties never alerted CFIUS of this transaction and that the Committee has not yet reviewed it.

Fortunately, CFIUS is not without recourse. In the event CFIUS is not notified of a transaction to review before consummation, federal law empowers CFIUS to conduct a retroactive review of any “covered real estate transaction” where national security may be at risk.³ One type of covered transaction involves real estate located in “close proximity”—meaning within one mile—to designated military installations.⁴

¹ E.g., Philip Lenczycki, *Exclusive: US Nuclear Bomber Fleet Shares Fence With Trailer Park Linked to Chinese Intel-Tied Fraudster*, DAILY CALLER (Nov. 10, 2025), <https://dailycaller.com/2025/11/10/exclusive-us-nuclear-bomber-fleet-shares-fence-trailer-park-linked-chinese-intel-miles-guo/>.

² *Id.*

³ See 50 U.S.C. § 4565(b)(1)(D)(i) (“[T]he Committee may initiate a review...of...any covered transaction....”); 31 C.F.R. § 802.101 (explaining CFIUS’s jurisdiction to review “covered real estate transactions”).

⁴ See 31 C.F.R. § 802.211(b)(1) (“[C]overed real estate means real estate that...is located within...[c]lose proximity of any military installation...identified in the list at part 1 or part 2 of appendix A to this part”); *id.* § 802.212 (defining “covered real estate transaction”); *id.* § 802.203 (defining “close proximity”).

The transaction at issue here appears to clearly fall within CFIUS's jurisdiction to retroactively review covered real estate transactions. Whiteman Air Force Base is specifically listed in Appendix A of Part 802 as a designated military facility.⁵ And the Knob Noster Trailer Park immediately abuts Whiteman Air Force Base, so it is within close proximity.⁶

Under 31 C.F.R. § 802.102, CFIUS evaluates these types of transactions by considering a range of risk-based factors, including the foreign acquirer's affiliations, the strategic nature of the property, and potential security vulnerabilities.⁷ Such a review is needed here.

There is CFIUS precedent for this type of review. In 2022, a group of companies majority-owned by Chinese nationals purchased real estate within one mile of Warren Air Force Base, a strategic missile base in Wyoming.⁸ The transaction was not filed with CFIUS, but the Committee later unilaterally initiated a post-transaction review.⁹ The Committee identified national security risks from the transaction, and President Biden subsequently imposed conditions and requirements on the land, including by ordering divestment.¹⁰ Given the similarities between that circumstance and this transaction near Whiteman Air Force Base, similar national security risks appear present.

If CFIUS and Treasury have not yet initiated a review of this real estate transaction, I respectfully urge the Committee and Department to immediately open a review of this transaction under 50 U.S.C. § 4565(b)(1)(D) and 31 C.F.R. Part 802.

I appreciate your continued leadership on economic and national security issues and stand ready to support any action necessary to safeguard Whiteman Air Force Base and other sensitive sites from adversarial encroachment.

Sincerely,



Eric S. Schmitt
United States Senator

⁵ 31 C.F.R. § 802 Appendix A.

⁶ Lenczycki, *supra* note 1.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Joseph R. Biden, *Order Regarding the Acquisition of Certain Real Property of Cheyenne Leads by MineOne Cloud Computing Investment I L.P.*, § 1 (May 13, 2024), available at: <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/05/13/order-regarding-the-acquisition-of-certain-real-property-of-cheyenne-leads-by-mineone-cloud-computing-investment-i-l-p/>.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*