

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To establish the position of Country China Officer in the Department of State to monitor and counter financing projects around the world that are backed by the People’s Republic of China.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LANKFORD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish the position of Country China Officer in the Department of State to monitor and counter financing projects around the world that are backed by the People’s Republic of China.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Belt and Road Over-
5 sight Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COUNTRY CHINA OFFICER.**

7 (a) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 60 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State

1 shall direct all Chiefs of Mission to designate 1 Foreign
2 Service Officer in a United States embassy or other diplo-
3 matic post in each country with whom the United States
4 has diplomatic relations as Country China Officer.

5 (b) DUTIES.—Each Country China Officer shall mon-
6 itor and report on the activity of the People’s Republic
7 of China in his or her country of responsibility, including
8 capital investment in critical infrastructure and other
9 projects associated with the People’s Republic of China,
10 including the Belt and Road Initiative.

11 (c) SUNSET.—The requirement to designate Country
12 China Officers under subsection (a) shall expire on the
13 date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of
14 this Act.

15 **SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF BELT AND ROAD INI-**
16 **TIATIVE PROJECTS.**

17 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
18 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
19 direct all United States embassies, working through the
20 designated Country China Officer, to prepare a report that
21 details assets within their respective country of operation
22 that are controlled or financed by the Government of the
23 People’s Republic of China or a state-owned enterprise in
24 the People’s Republic of China.

1 (b) CONTENTS.—Each report required under sub-
2 section (a) shall include—

3 (1) an assessment of the respective country's
4 debt obligations to the People's Republic of China;

5 (2) a list of known infrastructure projects in
6 the respective country that are financed from capital
7 provided by—

8 (A) the banking system of the People's Re-
9 public of China, including—

10 (i) policy banks, including—

11 (I) the China Development Bank;

12 (II) the Export-Import Bank of
13 China; and

14 (III) the Agricultural Develop-
15 ment Bank of China;

16 (ii) state-owned commercial banks, in-
17 cluding—

18 (I) the Industrial and Commer-
19 cial Bank of China;

20 (II) the Agricultural Bank of
21 China;

22 (III) the China Construction
23 Bank;

24 (IV) the Bank of Communica-
25 tions Limited; and

- 1 (V) the Bank of China;
- 2 (iii) sovereign wealth funds, includ-
- 3 ing—
- 4 (I) the China Investment Cor-
- 5 poration;
- 6 (II) China Life Insurance Com-
- 7 pany;
- 8 (III) the China National Social
- 9 Security Fund; and
- 10 (IV) the Silk Road Fund;
- 11 (iv) urban commercial banks; and
- 12 (v) rural financial institutions;
- 13 (B) international financing institutions, in-
- 14 cluding—
- 15 (i) the Asian Infrastructure Invest-
- 16 ment Bank; and
- 17 (ii) the New Development Bank; and
- 18 (C) any other financial institution or entity
- 19 otherwise controlled, overseen, or managed by
- 20 the Government of the People’s Republic of
- 21 China;
- 22 (3) the identification of the infrastructure
- 23 projects referred to in paragraph (2) that are
- 24 projects under the Belt and Road Initiative;

1 (4) an assessment of projects that have caused
2 the country to incur significant debt that has the po-
3 tential to harm its economic prosperity and national
4 sovereignty;

5 (5) a list of the known or speculated collateral
6 listed by the respective country for the debts in-
7 curred by Belt and Road Initiative projects referred
8 to in paragraph (1);

9 (6) a list of the known assets owned by the
10 Government of the People's Republic of China or
11 state-owned enterprises in the People's Republic of
12 China, including telecommunications and critical in-
13 frastructure; and

14 (7) a list of known activities at research institu-
15 tions or institutions of higher education controlled or
16 financed by the Government of the People's Republic
17 of China or state-owned enterprises in the People's
18 Republic of China.

19 (c) SUBMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF REPORT.—

20 (1) INITIAL SUBMISSION.—Not later than 1
21 year after the date on which the Secretary of State
22 issues the directive described in subsection (a), the
23 Chief of Mission in each country shall submit the re-
24 port required under subsection (a) to the Under Sec-
25 retary of State for Political Affairs.

1 (2) DISTRIBUTION.—The Under Secretary of
2 State for Political Affairs shall prepare and dis-
3 tribute a report that includes all of the information
4 from the individual country reports received pursu-
5 ant to paragraph (1) to—

6 (A) the heads of other bureaus and agen-
7 cies of the Department of State, as appropriate;

8 (B) the United States International Devel-
9 opment Finance Corporation;

10 (C) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
11 the Senate;

12 (D) the Committee on Armed Services of
13 the Senate;

14 (E) the Select Committee on Intelligence
15 of the Senate;

16 (F) the Committee on Finance of the Sen-
17 ate;

18 (G) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
19 the House of Representatives;

20 (H) the Committee on Armed Services of
21 the House of Representatives;

22 (I) the Permanent Select Committee on In-
23 telligence of the House of Representatives; and

24 (J) the Committee on Ways and Means of
25 the House of Representatives.

1 **SEC. 4. NOTIFICATION OF FUTURE BELT AND ROAD INITIA-**
2 **TIVE PROJECTS.**

3 After the preparation and submission of the reports
4 required under section 3(a), the Secretary of State shall
5 require the respective embassy and the China Desk at the
6 Department of State to inform the Under Secretary of
7 State for Political Affairs of any project described in sec-
8 tion 3(b)(2) not later than 30 days after the date on which
9 the Country China Officer is informed of such project.

10 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE REPORT OF BELT AND**
11 **ROAD INITIATIVE PROJECTS.**

12 During the 10-year period beginning on the date of
13 the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of State
14 for Political Affairs shall submit an annual report to Con-
15 gress that—

16 (1) contains all findings relating to projects
17 controlled or financed by the Government of the
18 People's Republic of China or state-owned enter-
19 prises in the People's Republic of China submitted
20 by Country China Officers through the process de-
21 scribed in sections 3 and 4 during the 12-month re-
22 porting period; and

23 (2) includes updated findings and analyses re-
24 lated to paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of section 3(b).

1 **SEC. 6. ANNUAL STRATEGY TO COUNTER PRC INFLUENCE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Country China Officer at
3 each respective embassy, in consultation with the Chief of
4 Mission for the respective country, shall develop a com-
5 prehensive, country-specific strategy to counter the influ-
6 ence of the People’s Republic of China, including a plan
7 to counter anti-American messaging by the People’s Re-
8 public of China, within their country of responsibility.

9 (b) USE OF STRATEGY.—The strategy developed pur-
10 suant to subsection (a) shall be used to equip all personnel
11 across all embassies, consulates, and other diplomatic
12 posts in the respective country of responsibility with the
13 tools needed to effectively counter the influence of the Peo-
14 ple’s Republic of China in their respective context and
15 country of responsibility.

16 (c) SUBMISSION.—During the 10-year period begin-
17 ning on the date of the enactment of this Act, each Chief
18 of Mission shall submit an annual report to the Under
19 Secretary of State for Political Affairs that—

20 (1) describes the implementation of the strategy
21 developed pursuant to subsection (a) during the re-
22 porting period; and

23 (2) assesses specific challenges and opportuni-
24 ties relating to the People’s Republic of China in the
25 respective country of responsibility.

1 (d) DISTRIBUTION.—The Under Secretary of State
2 for Political Affairs shall submit an annual report that
3 summarizes the information contained in the reports re-
4 ceived pursuant to subsection (c) to the heads of the bu-
5 reaus of the Department of State, as appropriate.

6 (e) EXCLUSIONS.—Countries with limited or no in-
7 vestments by the Government of the People’s Republic of
8 China shall be excluded from the strategy developed pur-
9 suant to subsection (a).

10 **SEC. 7. PROCUREMENT PROJECTIONS.**

11 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—During the 10-year period
12 beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the
13 Country China Officer at each respective embassy, in con-
14 sultation with other embassy personnel, shall submit an
15 annual report to the Under Secretary of State for Political
16 Affairs that—

17 (1) describes the procurement and infrastruc-
18 ture needs of their respective country of responsi-
19 bility; and

20 (2) assesses specific challenges and opportuni-
21 ties relating to potential financing by the People’s
22 Republic of China for procurement and infrastruc-
23 ture projects to meet such needs.

24 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—The Under Secretary of State
25 for Political Affairs shall submit an annual report summa-

1 rizing the information contained in the reports received
2 pursuant to subsection (a) to—

3 (1) the heads of the bureaus of the Department
4 of State, as appropriate; and

5 (2) other instrumentalities of the Federal Gov-
6 ernment, including the United States International
7 Development Finance Corporation.

8 **SEC. 8. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DEVELOPMENT**
9 **FINANCE.**

10 It is the sense of Congress that, as the People's Re-
11 public of China's influence grows through infrastructure
12 (particularly infrastructure that can easily be shifted from
13 economic to military uses), the United States Inter-
14 national Development Finance Corporation should
15 prioritize providing alternative financing opportunities
16 that increase port and air field capacity of countries
17 that—

18 (1) meet the investment criteria set forth in
19 title II of the BUILD Act of 2018 (division F of
20 Public Law 115–254; 22 U.S.C. 9621 et seq.); and

21 (2) are targets of the predatory infrastructure
22 development scheme of the People's Republic of
23 China commonly known as the Belt and Road Initia-
24 tive.