

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2023

Mr. Adam Silver
Commissioner
National Basketball Association
645 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Commissioner Adam Silver,

We write to you with grave concerns about Chinese Communist Party (CCP) propaganda being broadcasted and promoted at National Basketball Association (NBA) games.

On January 21st, 2023, a recorded video message from the People's Republic of China (PRC) Minister of Foreign Affairs, Qin Gang, was broadcasted to thousands of fans in attendance at Capital One Arena, situated at the heart of our nation's capital.¹ While a message like this may be perceived as an innocent gesture at face value, it is a blatant exertion of soft power at a venue in the epicenter of our nation's capital and gives the CCP a platform to disseminate their messaging to a national audience.

While Chinese New Year tributes are common across the NBA and in the United States, they have not featured prominent propagandists such as the PRC's Minister of Foreign Affairs. Officials such as Qin have threatened both the United States and Taiwan with escalation and military action.² In 2022, a similar night of programming took place where Qin was featured describing the strong connection between the NBA and the Chinese market.³ It is of grave national security concern that by advancing partnerships with the PRC, the NBA only further appeases the CCP and emboldens them to further human rights abuses and threaten our national security.

In light of serious national security concerns of the NBA's continued investment and partnership with the CCP, please respond to the following questions and explain how the NBA intends to take a stance against the CCP:

1. Did the CCP, or any instrument of the CCP, pay the NBA to broadcast CCP propaganda during NBA games?
2. Did the NBA willingly broadcast CCP propaganda or was this a favor conducted by the NBA? Was there threat of retribution if the NBA declined?

¹ Spectator, [China woos the Washington Wizards](#), January 25, 2023.

² Axios, [Taiwan consequences in rare briefing](#), August 16, 2022.

³ Fox News, [NBA subjects fans attending Clippers-Wizards game to video message from Chinese ambassador](#), January 28, 2022.

3. How does the NBA intend to denounce the serious human rights abuses of religious and ethnic groups in China, and support players who speak out against the CCP?

Sincerely,



Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Kevin Hern
Member of Congress



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress




Eric Schmitt
United States Senator



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