

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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September 10, 2026

Mr. Dan Chu
Executive Director
Sierra Club
50 F Street, NW, Eighth Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Chu:

The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (“the Committee”) writes to request that the Sierra Club, a 501(c)(4) tax-exempt organization, provide certain documents relating to the organization’s activities, funding, and communications. The Committee is concerned about a growing body of evidence that foreign-funded organizations, including Chinese Communist Party (CCP)-affiliated non-governmental organizations (NGOs), may be shaping United States artificial intelligence (AI) and energy infrastructure policy.¹ This concern was reinforced on August 28, 2026, when X Corp.’s Global Government Affairs team disclosed that it had identified a network of approximately 200,000 suspected Chinese inauthentic accounts on its platform, a subset of which were found disseminating misleading claims that AI data centers are driving up household electricity prices in an apparent effort to manipulate the domestic policy debate over data center construction.² Further, recent reporting indicates that foreign funding is also being directed toward organized campaigns opposing AI infrastructure outright—including efforts to halt data center construction—raising the possibility that foreign interests are working not merely to influence the direction of U.S. AI research, but to obstruct its development entirely.³

¹ See Sam Lyman, Bitcoin Policy Institute, Foreign Influence Campaign Against American AI (2026), https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/68f7cddcae0b61add08140fc/6a0bc1836c69a68e7f9e761f_Foreign%20Influence%20in%20the%20Campaign%20against%20American%20AI.pdf.

² Global Gov’t Affairs (@GlobalAffairs), X (Aug. 28, 2026, 9:47 PM), <https://x.com/GlobalAffairs/status/2093130747796148634>.

³ *Id.*

A report published in April 2026 by the American Energy Institute (AEI), titled “Foreign-Funded Opposition to U.S. Data Center Expansion,” found that twelve U.S.-based organizations actively opposing U.S. data center development have collectively received more than \$39 million from foreign donors, including individuals and foundations based in Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and Denmark.⁴ The report identified several foreign funding sources, including Hansjörg Wyss (channeled through the Wyss Foundation and Berger Action Fund), Chris Hohn, the Quadrature Climate Foundation, the KR Foundation, and the Oak Foundation.⁵ This is not a new phenomenon. A separate 2025 report by Americans for Public Trust similarly found that five foreign charities—the Quadrature Climate Foundation, the KR Foundation, the Oak Foundation, the Laudes Foundation, and Christopher Hohn's Children's Investment Fund Foundation—had directed nearly \$2 billion to a network of organizations engaged in U.S. energy and climate advocacy.⁶

The AEI report specifically identifies the Sierra Club chapters in Louisiana, Kansas, New Jersey, Delaware, Michigan, and Minnesota as having engaged in local opposition to data center projects by directing residents to contact city councils, publicizing lawsuits against proposed projects, organizing protests, and coordinating this political activity with the national organization under Sierra Club’s own compliance guidelines.⁷ Separately, public disclosures compiled by Influence Watch indicate that the Sixteen Thirty Fund, a pass-through donor-advised fund, contributed \$1,430,000 to Sierra Club in 2023, and that the Sixteen Thirty Fund has separately received substantial contributions from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Advocacy and from the Berger Action Fund (associated with Swiss billionaire Hansjörg Wyss) between 2019 and 2022.⁸ Given this documented activity and funding relationship, the Committee seeks to understand the extent to which Sierra Club’s operations and advocacy opposing data center development are supported, directly or indirectly, by foreign funding sources, and whether such funding and any associated foreign coordination are properly disclosed under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA).⁹

Pursuant to Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology has jurisdiction over matters relating to the development of

⁴ American Energy Institute, Foreign-Funded Opposition to U.S. Data Center Expansion (Apr. 2026), https://americanenergyinstitute.com/docs/aei_data-center_report_v2.pdf.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Americans for Public Trust, Foreign Charities Fueling Extreme Policies in the U.S. (2025), https://americansforpublictrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/APT_Foreign-Charities-Funding-Extreme-Policies-Report-1.pdf.

⁷ American Energy Institute, Foreign-Funded Opposition to U.S. Data Center Expansion (Apr. 2026), https://americanenergyinstitute.com/docs/aei_data-center_report_v2.pdf.

⁸ Sixteen Thirty Fund (1630 Fund), *InfluenceWatch*, <https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/sixteen-thirty-fund/>.

⁹ 22 U.S.C. §§ 611–621 (2018) (requiring agents of foreign principals engaged in political or quasi-political activity within the United States to register with the Department of Justice and publicly disclose their relationship, receipts, and disbursements).

energy and artificial intelligence policy, specifically “all energy research, development, and demonstration therefore, and all federally owned or operated nonmilitary energy laboratories”, the “commercial application of energy technology”, as well as “environmental research and development”, and “scientific research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefor.” Similarly, the committee is directed to “review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs, and Government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development.” Accordingly, the Committee requests that Sierra Club provide the following documents, no later than September 24, 2026:

1. All documents and communications between any officer, employee, or agent of Sierra Club and a foreign principal since 2023, where “foreign principal” includes:
 - a. a government of a foreign country and a foreign political party;
 - b. a person outside of the United States, unless it is established that such person is an individual and a citizen of and domiciled within the United States, or that such person is not an individual and is organized under or created by the laws of the United States or of any State or other place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and has its principal place of business within the United States; and
 - c. a partnership, association, corporation, organization, or other combination of persons organized under the laws of or having its principal place of business in a foreign country.
2. A list of all foreign nationals, foreign entities, or foreign-based foundations that have donated, directly or indirectly (including through shell entities, pass-through funds, or donor-advised funds), more than \$5,000 to Sierra Club from 2023 to the present, together with all documents concerning those grants or contributions.
3. All documents and communications concerning the \$1,430,000 contribution from the Sixteen Thirty Fund to Sierra Club identified in 2023 public disclosures, including any documents concerning the origin or intended use of those funds.
4. All compliance guidelines governing coordination of political and advocacy activity between the national Sierra Club organization and its state and local chapters, and all documents and communications since 2023 concerning the coordination of opposition to data center projects in Louisiana, Kansas, New Jersey, Delaware, Michigan, and Minnesota.

5. All communications between Executive Director Dan Chu and employees and board members, regarding international accounts referenced in section 4a of Sierra Club's most recently published Form 990 filing.¹⁰
6. Any legal analysis, registration statement, or internal determination concerning Sierra Club's obligations, if any, under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Sincerely,



Brian Babin
Chairman
House Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology



Rich McCormick
Chairman
Subcommittee on Investigations
and Oversight
House Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology

cc: Zoe Lofgren, Ranking Member, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology;
Emilia Sykes, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, House
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

¹⁰ Form 990, Sierra Club, for Period Ending Sept. 2024, *Nonprofit Explorer*, ProPublica,
<https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/941153307/202503169349309600/full>.