

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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September 10, 2026

Brian Stone
Chief of Staff, Performing the Duties of the NSF Director
National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Acting Director Stone,

The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology writes to ensure that the National Science Foundation (NSF) is working to mitigate the influence of foreign-funded entities on federally funded artificial intelligence (AI) and energy research. The Committee is concerned about a growing body of evidence that foreign-funded organizations, particularly Chinese Communist Party (CCP)-affiliated non-governmental organizations (NGOs), may be shaping U.S. AI and energy infrastructure policy.¹ Compounding this concern, 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.² Accordingly, the Committee seeks to better understand what steps NSF is taking to prevent foreign-funded NGOs and other entities from influencing AI and energy research. Advancing AI capabilities and ensuring energy resilience are essential to U.S. national security and economic competitiveness.

Reporting increasingly indicates that Chinese groups led by former CCP officials are funding AI and energy research at U.S. research institutions.³ Energy Foundation China (EFC) is

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 *Id.*

³ See Thomas Catenacci, *Group Led by Ex-CCP Officials is Quietly Funding US Govt Climate Change Research, Filings Show*, The Washington Free Beacon (Dec. 19, 2024), <https://freebeacon.com/energy/group-led-by-ex-ccp->

one organization led by former CCP officials that has come under increased scrutiny.⁴ According to tax filings, EFC, which operates out of an office in Beijing, has wired more than \$1 million to the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to fund "green energy research."⁵ In 2024, EFC also "sent \$1.2 million to Harvard University, four schools within the University of California system, and Villanova University," allegedly to reduce emissions and address climate change.⁶ EFC is not an outlier. According to the Government Accountability Office, from 2015 to 2021, federal agencies provided \$28.9 million directly to Chinese entities for research and development activities.⁷ Direct funding to such entities raises fundamental questions regarding how agencies like NSF are evaluating and vetting foreign organizations and their affiliates in the grantmaking process.

Recent reports from the Bitcoin Policy Institute (BPI) and the American Energy Institute (AEI) document a coordinated campaign against AI data centers financed by foreign "dark money" routed through various environmental nonprofits.⁸ The campaign leverages environmental activism to target AI infrastructure.⁹ A May 2026 BPI report identifies multiple sources of opposition to U.S. AI development, most notably: foreign "dark-money" groups and the so-called "Singham Network," composed of ideologically aligned NGOs.¹⁰ "Dark money" networks operate by channeling large volumes of foreign funding through charitable vehicles and U.S. nonprofit intermediaries so that the original foreign source is obscured.¹¹ Roy Neville Singham, an American citizen and pro-China businessman, has reportedly established a pro-CCP "dark money" network of shell companies, nonprofits, and personal networks, allegedly tied to China's State Investment Firm.¹² A 2025 report from Americans for Public Trust found that a particular group of five foreign charities had funneled almost \$2 billion to fund U.S. left-wing

[officials-is-quietly-funding-us-govt-climate-research-filings-show/](#); Thomas Catenacci, *Chinese Climate Group Led by CCP Insiders Gave More Than \$1M to Harvard and University of California in 2024, Tax Filings Show*, The Washington Free Beacon ((Dec. 4, 2025), <https://freebeacon.com/china/chinese-climate-group-led-by-ccp-insiders-gave-more-than-1m-to-harvard-and-university-of-california-in-2024-tax-filings-show/>).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Supra* at 3.

⁶ *Supra* at 3.

⁷ *Information on Funding for U.S.- China Research Collaboration and Other International Activities*, GAO-22-105313, U.S. GOVT ACCOUNTABILITY OFF. (Sept. 2022), <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-22-105313.pdf>.

⁸ *See Supra* at 1.

⁹ *Supra* at 1.

¹⁰ *Supra* at 1.

¹¹ *See* Michael Beckel, *What is Political 'dark money' - and is it bad?*, The Center for Public Integrity, <https://publicintegrity.org/politics/what-is-political-dark-money-and-is-it-bad/>.

¹² Asra Q. Nomani, *Red Wealth, dark money: How an American tycoon deploys Mao's playbook against the West*, Fox News (Mar. 24, 2026), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/red-wealth-dark-money-how-american-tycoon-deploys-maos-playbook-against-west>.

policies and to advance an extreme climate agenda.¹³ According to the report, these funds support a network of organizations that sponsor research, produce reports, and coordinate coalition letters aimed at weakening U.S. energy independence.¹⁴ AEI found that 12 organizations actively opposing U.S. data center development have collectively received more than \$39 million from foreign donors.¹⁵ Furthermore, the breadth and influence of foreign NGO networks suggest that foreign funding is being systematically leveraged to legitimize hostility to AI and energy development.¹⁶

In February 2026, a coalition of state attorneys general sent a letter to the Department of Justice (DOJ) requesting an investigation into a network of U.S.-based climate and energy organizations identified in the 2025 Americans for Public Trust report as having received nearly \$2 billion from five foreign groups.¹⁷ The letter alleges that these groups, funded primarily by European philanthropies, have used those resources to influence U.S. climate and energy policy and may be operating as unregistered foreign agents in potential violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act.¹⁸ The attorneys general allege that foreign principals are “engaging in coordinated funding and advocacy efforts to influence U.S. energy policy and undermine American energy independence.”¹⁹ The letter also urges DOJ to determine whether these entities and their U.S. intermediaries are engaged in political activities “at the order, request, or under the direction or control” of foreign principals.²⁰

Recent reporting by OpenAI suggests a covert Chinese social media campaign against U.S. AI and energy development. The push has been dubbed the “data center bandwagon campaign.”²¹ Ironically, the campaign utilizes the same American-built AI it seeks to stymie.²²

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ American Energy Institute, *Foreign-Funded Opposition to U.S. Data Center Expansion* (Apr. 2026), https://americanenergyinstitute.com/docs/aei_data-center_report_v2.pdf.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Republican State Attorneys General Call on DOJ to Investigate Climate Change Organizations*, Charity and Security Network (Feb. 25, 2026), <https://charityandsecurity.org/news/republican-state-attorneys-general-call-on-doj-to-investigate-climate-change-organizations/>.

¹⁸ Letter from State Attorneys General to Attorney Gen. Pamela Bondi (Feb. 12, 2026), https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MTAG/2026/02/13/file_attachments/3554159/2026-02-12%20AGs%20Letter%20to%20DOJ%20re%20APT%20Report.pdf.

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Supra* at 18.

²¹ Brent D. Griffiths, *OpenAI says a suspected China-linked influence operation tried to sway the debate about US data centers*, Business Insider (Jun. 10, 2026), <https://www.businessinsider.com/openai-china-data-centers-influence-campaign-2026-6>.

²² See Press Release, OpenAI, *PRC-linked influence operations are targeting AI debates in the US* (Jun. 10, 2026), <https://openai.com/index/prc-linked-influence-operations-ai-debates/>.

OpenAI recently identified and banned Chinese groups using ChatGPT for covert influence operations targeting U.S. AI policy debates.²³ The company also published a report in June 2026 showing that the campaigners posed as Americans through social media accounts by using AI-generated comments, memes, and edited images.²⁴ The social media campaign has an international presence, with posts curated in several different languages.²⁵ According to Ben Nimmo, the principal investigator on OpenAI's Intelligence and Investigations team, "This looks like a classic example of a foreign influence operation, jumping onto the bandwagon of a genuine pre-existing domestic debate, and trying to manipulate it by using fake accounts, posing as Americans."²⁶ The 2026 report concludes that this campaign seeks to infiltrate the American conversation over energy costs and disrupt public debate.²⁷

Federal agencies have tools available to better prevent malign foreign influence in U.S. research by effectively applying the CHIPS and Science Act disclosure requirements. The Office of Research Security Strategy and Policy at NSF could establish a dedicated team to evaluate nonprofits' foreign ties and funding sources and use CHIPS authorities, such as the Section 10339B Foreign Financial Disclosure Report (FFDR), which allows NSF to collect summaries of foreign financial support.²⁸ It is concerning that federal agencies may not be detecting undisclosed foreign affiliations, particularly given that China is identified as a foreign country of concern under FFDR guidelines.²⁹ The Committee encourages NSF to examine whether its foreign talent recruitment program guidelines are sufficiently comprehensive to capture organizational rather than solely individual foreign ties and obligations, and to consider whether targeted refinements could further strengthen protections for AI development.

As such, to support the Committee's ongoing oversight, we ask that you provide the Committee's majority staff with a briefing on NSF's efforts to identify, disclose, and mitigate the influence of foreign-affiliated NGOs on federally funded AI and energy research. If you have any questions, please contact Brenn Thompson of the Committee's majority staff at (202) 225-6371.

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ OpenAI, PRC-linked influence operations are targeting AI debated in the US (2026), <https://cdn.openai.com/pdf/96b559fa-c165-4575-805d-e636909e2f78/June-2026-Threat-Report.pdf>.

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ *Supra* at 21.

²⁷ *Supra* at 24.

²⁸ See National Science Foundation, Proposal & Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF 24-1), <https://www.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/24-1/ch-7-award-administration#ch7D>.

²⁹ See Megan Mason et al., *NSF Foreign Financial Disclosure Reports due September 3 for higher education institutions*, Hogan Lovells (Aug. 28, 2024), <https://www.hoganlovells.com/en/publications/nsf-foreign-financial-disclosure-reports-due-september-3-for-higher-education-institutions>.

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, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology,
Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight