

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 18, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President,

In the upcoming week, Chinese President Xi will be visiting the United States as part of a multi-nation tour and official state visit. As the Senator of a state that recently was impacted by Chinese cyber-attacks and cyber espionage, I write today to strongly urge you to press President Xi on his nation's harmful cyber activities to help protect companies and workers in Pennsylvania and across the country from such job-killing actions in the future.

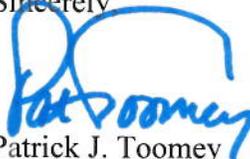
Over the past decade, major cyber incidents have dramatically increased. In many of these instances, our security agencies have confirmed the attacks have originated in China. In fact, at the beginning of 2014, the Department of Justice (DOJ) found undeniable evidence that the Chinese military attacked the computer systems of half a dozen firms in the state that I represent, including Westinghouse Electric, Alcoa, Allegheny Technologies Inc., and United States Steel. After I learned about these attacks, I wrote a letter to the Chinese Ambassador to express my outrage and demand the Chinese government immediately put a stop to this illegal activity. To date, the Chinese government still refuses to acknowledge its nation's involvement in the attacks.

Combined with the massive cyber breaches at the Office of Personnel Management and others, it adds to a startling and persistent effort by the Chinese government to infiltrate, steal, and compromise some of our nation's most important data and information. Not only is our national security at risk - as some have speculated that the Chinese government is using the information to find American spies, intelligence officers, and Chinese dissidents - but these attacks also threaten American jobs, technology, and economy viability. Each year, online espionage and hacking has been estimated to cost Americans over 500,000 jobs - not to mention the loss of essential technology, advanced designs, and military secrets.

With this in mind, it is imperative to increase the pressure on the Chinese President to curb his nation's involvement in dangerous and illegal online attacks. While Congress continues to push forward on cybersecurity legislation, which I have supported, I encourage you to further strengthen and expedite any proposed cyber sanctions to deter future attacks.

Thank you for your consideration, and I stand ready to work with you on addressing the serious threat of cyber-attacks and corporate espionage.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Toomey
United States Senate