

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 18, 2025

Christopher C. Pratt
Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Under Secretary Pratt,

We write to raise concerns regarding increased efforts by the People's Republic of China (PRC) to utilize State-directed labor transfer programs to circumvent the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFPLA).

Since the implementation of the UFPLA's enforcement mechanism in June 2022, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has reviewed over 11,000 shipments covering billions of dollars of various products, including apparel, automotive parts, chemicals, electronics, flooring, and solar panels.¹ These actions have incentivized companies to increase their supply chain due diligence and shift their supply chains away from suppliers that exploit Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in China, particularly in Xinjiang. As a result of this enforcement, however, the PRC is now actively working to sidestep our forced labor prohibitions.

On May 29, 2025, the *New York Times*, the *Bureau of Investigative Journalism* and *Der Spiegel* published a joint investigation detailing efforts by the PRC to ship tens of thousands of Uyghur workers out of Xinjiang and into factories across China. Over 100 companies in at least five major industries appeared to receive Uyghur workers or parts or goods produced by them.² According to a February International Labor Organization report, these labor transfer programs used measures "severely restricting the free choice of employment."³

The UFPLA requires the Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force (FLETF) to produce and update an entity list, including "a list of entities working with the government of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region to recruit, transport, transfer, harbor or receive forced labor or Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, or members of other persecuted groups out of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region." CBP is required to enforce the prohibition of imported goods from entities on the UFPLA Entity List. Currently, the entity list contains 144 entities, with 37 added just in January.⁴ However, it is clear based off of the joint investigation referenced above that further measures are needed to drastically expand the UFPLA Entity List to address these forced labor transfer programs outside Xinjiang and crack down on the PRC's evasion of U.S. law.

We therefore request a briefing by July 18, 2025, on the actions FLETF intends to take to prevent the PRC's circumvention of the UFPLA through forced labor transfers and the FLETF's plan for

¹ <https://www.dhs.gov/archive/news/2024/07/09/fact-sheet-just-two-years-forced-labor-enforcement-task-force-and-uyghur-forced>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/05/29/world/asia/china-uyghur-xinjiang-labor-transfers.html>

³ https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/Report%20III%28A%29-2025-%5BNORMES-241219-002%5D-EN_0.pdf

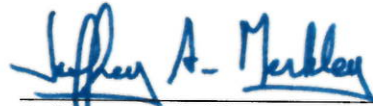
⁴ <https://www.dhs.gov/archive/news/2025/01/14/dhs-announces-addition-37-prc-based-companies-ufpla-entity-list>

engagement with the private sector to improve compliance with the UFPLA. We stand ready to work with FLETF to ensure it has both the resources and authorities necessary to tackle these grotesque human rights abuses that the PRC uses to artificially lower the costs of goods and undermine American workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pete Ricketts".

Pete Ricketts
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey A. Merkley".

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Curtis".

John Curtis
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Coons".

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator