May 9, 2020

The Honorable Eliot Engel  
Chairman  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
2426 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael McCaul  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
2001 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Risch  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
483 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Menendez  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
528 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressional leaders:

As the Chief Legal Officers of the undersigned 18 states, we are writing to ask for Congressional Hearings into the communist Chinese Government and its role in the COVID-19 pandemic. Recent reports suggest that the communist Chinese government willfully and knowingly concealed information about the severity of the virus while simultaneously stockpiling personal protective equipment. In what Secretary of State Pompeo has described as a ‘classic communist disinformation effort,’ the Chinese government, aided by the World Health Organization, appears to have intentionally misled the world over the last 6 months.

These layers of deceit began last year with the censoring of Chinese health officials and the muzzling of Taiwanese complaints. The cover-up continued with the expulsion of media outlets and the proliferation of Chinese propaganda targeting the Western world. This propaganda campaign has spread disinformation about the United States and has included the suspicious gifts of drones to state, local and
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federal authorities as well as “educational” grants to American universities connected to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

During this same period, COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on our states and the Nation. We must all hold China accountable for the devastation and destruction caused by COVID-19. Tens of thousands have died from the virus and millions have lost their jobs. Countless businesses, both big and small, will perish and our states will grapple with tough economic decisions for years to come.

One of our colleagues has already filed suit against China and many of us are considering similar legal actions. Congressional hearings are critical to our Nation’s understanding of the origins of COVID-19 and efforts by the communist Chinese government to deceive the international community. We appreciate your consideration of our request and we all stand ready to support and participate in any hearings you choose to conduct.

Sincerely,

Alan Wilson  
Attorney General of South Carolina

Steve Marshall  
Attorney General of Alabama

Kevin Clarkson  
Attorney General of Alaska

Leslie Rutledge  
Attorney General of Arkansas

Ashley Moody  
Attorney General of Florida

Christopher M. Carr  
Attorney General of Georgia

Curtis Hill  
Attorney General of Indiana
Derek Schmidt  
Attorney General of Kansas

Dan Cameron  
Attorney General of Kentucky

Jeff Landry  
Attorney General of Louisiana

Lynn Fitch  
Attorney General of Mississippi

Eric Schmitt  
Attorney General of Missouri

Tim Fox  
Attorney General of Montana

Douglas J. Peterson  
Attorney General of Nebraska

Mike Hunter  
Attorney General of Oklahoma

Herbert H. Slatery, III  
Attorney General of Tennessee

Ken Paxton  
Attorney General of Texas

Patrick Morrisey  
Attorney General of West Virginia