

May 13, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: FEDERAL- STATE EFFORTS TO HOLD THE CHINESE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE

Dear President Trump:

We the undersigned fourteen states write to thank you for the federal response to the COVID-19 virus and to offer our cooperation in assessing what potential actions can be taken to hold the Chinese communist government (hereinafter China) accountable for its role in the spread of this deadly disease. Each of us has been partnering with the federal government during this public health emergency to combat deceptive trade practices and price gouging and we propose expanding our partnership as we emerge from the first wave of the virus.

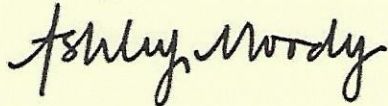
Over the past several months, the spread of COVID-19 has grievously harmed each of our States. Many of our citizens have suffered and died from this virus. Our economies have been effectively shut down. Businesses, big and small, have been devastated to the point that many will not reopen. Each of our States will likely have to make tough budget choices for years to come because of this virus, which we all realize will continue to cause harm well beyond the reopening of our economies.

Our citizens deserve to know whether these harms could have been prevented and, if so, accountability from those responsible. Based on publicly available information, China may have failed to provide information or provided misinformation that contributed significantly to the spread of this virus. It is incumbent upon the federal government and us as the chief legal officers of our States to pursue whether China failed to stop the spread of this virus, misrepresented key information about the virus which led to its spread, and engaged in a cover up so that key information about this virus was suppressed.

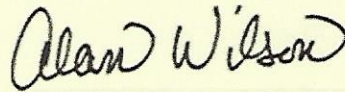
As the administration evaluates the spectrum of possible actions to take towards China, a coordinated effort involving all appropriate federal agencies and our States is crucial to ensuring the accountability our citizens deserve. A comprehensive evaluation of the legal, economic, diplomatic, and security measures that can be employed must be undertaken and for maximum effectiveness States should be included in that process to the extent possible. This will allow us to share information and resources and ensure that any remedy sought takes into consideration our legal capabilities and the devastating impact the virus has had on our States.

A coordinated effort between the federal government and our States is the most effective and efficient means of exploring a viable response to achieve the accountability our citizens demand. As such, we look forward to expanding our partnership and stand ready to discuss this matter at your convenience. Again, we appreciate your extraordinary efforts to protect Americans.

Sincerely,



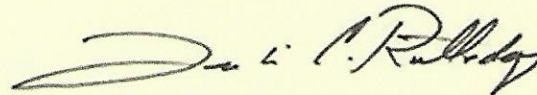
Ashley Moody,
Attorney General of Florida



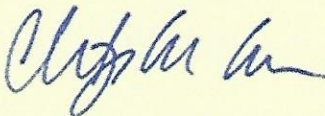
Alan Wilson,
Attorney General of South Carolina



Kevin Clarkson,
Attorney General of Alaska



Leslie Rutledge,
Attorney General of Arkansas



Christopher M. Carr,
Attorney General of Georgia



Curtis Hill,
Attorney General of Indiana



Derek Schmidt,
Attorney General of Kansas



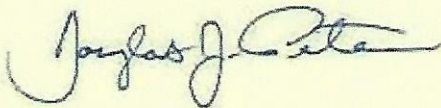
Daniel Cameron,
Attorney General of Kentucky



Jeff Landry,
Attorney General of Louisiana



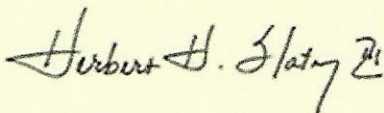
Tim Fox,
Attorney General of Montana



Douglas J. Peterson,
Attorney General of Nebraska



Mike Hunter,
Attorney General of Oklahoma



Herbert H. Slatery, III,
Attorney General of Tennessee



Patrick Morrissey,
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