

ELAINE LURIA  
2ND DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4602

412 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4215

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April 14, 2022

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House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member  
Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chair  
Maria Cantwell  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation  
254 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member  
Roger Wicker  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation  
254 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Conferees:

As you work to negotiate the differences between the House and Senate versions of the America COMPETES Act, we write to convey our strong support for retaining Title XII section 12001 of the House bill in the final conference report. The language modeled after our bill, the American Telecommunications Security Act, would prohibit American Rescue Plan Act funds from being used to purchase telecommunication equipment from Chinese firms Huawei and ZTE.

In June 2020, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designated Huawei and ZTE as national security threats due to their ties to the Chinese government and Chinese law requiring them to assist in espionage activities. As a result, no funds from the FCC's Universal Fund can be used to purchase equipment from these two suppliers.

However, the American Rescue Plan did not include language prohibiting this, allowing states and local governments to purchase telecommunications equipment that poses a national security risk. We cannot allow taxpayer dollars to be used to facilitate the People's Republic of China's surveillance campaign against America. The extent to which these companies are complicit in Beijing's espionage efforts are well documented. This bipartisan legislation mirrors existing provisions that safeguard American technology infrastructure and is true to the mission of the America COMPETES Act.

This language will help preserve our national security against the People's Republic of China. We respectfully ask that the conference agreement retain Title XII section 12001 of the House version of the America COMPETES Act. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Elaine G. Luria  
Member of Congress



Steve Womack  
Member of Congress