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1ST DISTRICT, TEXAS

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October 15, 2024

The Hon. Willie L. Phillips
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Chairman Phillips:

I write to express deep concerns regarding the severe national security implications of the proposed Pump Storage Hydroelectric Project located along the Kiamichi River in Pushmataha County, Oklahoma, FERC number 14890-005.

First, the applicant for this project, Southeastern Oklahoma Power Corporation (SEOPC), has close ties with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).¹ SEOPC's president, Johann Tse, has a long history of business dealings with China and is the Founder and CEO of Aquarian Capital, a firm "with extensive relationships across governments and industries in the Greater China region" In fact, the firm has a stated purpose of capitalizing on strategic business and investment opportunity that exist between the United States and China.² It is no secret that the CCP is working hard to undermine American interests and our national security, as noted in the 2024 Annual Threat Assessment³ published by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. While I support greater efforts to deliver affordable, reliable energy in this region, as a Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I cannot support a project that places this sector of our critical infrastructure at risk of a foreign nation whose strategic interests are not aligned with our own.

Second, this project requires the exercise of eminent domain over 35,000 acres of land in Oklahoma for the main site, as well as additional land for the transmission lines in Oklahoma's Pushmataha and McCurtain Counties and in Texas' Red River and Lamar Counties. As Congressman Josh Brecheen (OK-02) has relayed, the assertion of eminent domain in this matter would go against the will of the very people that the statute is intended to benefit. What's more, this project goes directly against public interest and the interests of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations.⁴

¹ Minty, C. (2024, September 11). *Oklahoma Congressman links power plants proposal to China*. The Journal Record. <https://journalrecord.com/2024/09/oklahoma-congressman-links-power-plant-proposal-to-china/>

² Aquarian Capital. (n.d.). *Introduction*. http://aquariancapital.com/modules/pico/index.php?content_id=1

³ Office of the Director of National Intelligence. (2024, February 4). *Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Agency*. <https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/ATA-2024-Unclassified-Report.pdf>

⁴ Congressman Josh Brecheen. (2024, August 14). *Congressman Brecheen Opposes Chinese Communist Party-Linked Hydroelectric Power Plant Project: "We Will Do Everything in Our Power to Prevent this Harmful Project from Moving Forward."* [Press Release]. <https://brecheen.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=1333>

While I support greater efforts to deliver affordable, reliable energy in this region, I cannot support this specific project in its current form. The issues raised herein are of great public and national security importance, and I strongly urge you to reject approval for the proposed Pump Storage Hydroelectric Project and any related permits. If you have any questions, please contact my Legislative Assistant, Cruz Perez, at Cruz.Perez@mail.house.gov or by phone at (202) 225-3035.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nathaniel Moran". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

Nathaniel Moran
Member of Congress