

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2752

To establish the position of Country China Officer to monitor and counter financing projects around the world that are backed by the People's Republic of China.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

Mr. LANKFORD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To establish the position of Country China Officer to monitor and counter financing projects around the world that are backed by the People's Republic of China.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Belt and Road Over-  
5 sight Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COUNTRY CHINA OFFICER.**

7 (a) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 60 days after the  
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State  
9 shall direct all Chiefs of Mission to designate not fewer

1 than 1 Foreign Service Officer in a United States embassy  
2 or other diplomatic post in each country with whom the  
3 United States has diplomatic relations as Country China  
4 Officer.

5 (b) DUTIES.—Each Country China Officer shall mon-  
6 itor and report on the activity of the People’s Republic  
7 of China in his or her country of responsibility, including  
8 capital investment in critical infrastructure and other  
9 projects associated with the People’s Republic of China,  
10 including the Belt and Road Initiative.

11 (c) SUNSET PROVISION.—The requirement to des-  
12 ignate Country China Officers under subsection (a) shall  
13 expire on the date that is 10 years after the date of the  
14 enactment of this Act.

15 **SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF BELT AND ROAD INI-**  
16 **TIATIVE PROJECTS.**

17 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date  
18 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall  
19 direct all United States embassies to prepare a report that  
20 details assets within their country of operation that are  
21 controlled or financed by the Government of the People’s  
22 Republic of China or a state-owned enterprise in the Peo-  
23 ple’s Republic of China. Each such report shall be pre-  
24 pared by a Country China Officer designated pursuant to

1 section 2(a) and shall include the information described  
2 in subsection (b).

3 (b) CONTENTS.—Each report required under sub-  
4 section (a) shall include—

5 (1) an assessment of the respective country’s  
6 debt obligations to the People’s Republic of China;

7 (2) a list of known infrastructure projects in  
8 the respective country that are financed from capital  
9 provided by—

10 (A) the banking system of the People’s Re-  
11 public of China, including—

12 (i) policy banks, including—

13 (I) the China Development Bank;

14 (II) the Export-Import Bank of  
15 China; and

16 (III) the Agricultural Develop-  
17 ment Bank of China;

18 (ii) state-owned commercial banks, in-  
19 cluding—

20 (I) the Industrial and Commer-  
21 cial Bank of China;

22 (II) the Agricultural Bank of  
23 China;

24 (III) the China Construction  
25 Bank;

1 (IV) the Bank of Communica-  
2 tions Limited; and

3 (V) the Bank of China;

4 (iii) sovereign wealth funds, includ-  
5 ing—

6 (I) the China Investment Cor-  
7 poration;

8 (II) China Life Insurance Com-  
9 pany;

10 (III) the China National Social  
11 Security Fund; and

12 (IV) the Silk Road Fund;

13 (iv) urban commercial banks; and

14 (v) rural financial institutions;

15 (B) international financing institutions, in-  
16 cluding—

17 (i) the Asian Infrastructure Invest-  
18 ment Bank; and

19 (ii) the New Development Bank; and

20 (C) any other financial institution or entity  
21 otherwise controlled, overseen, or managed by  
22 the Government of the People's Republic of  
23 China;

1           (3) the identification of the infrastructure  
2 projects referred to in paragraph (2) that are  
3 projects under the Belt and Road Initiative;

4           (4) an assessment of projects that have caused  
5 the country to incur significant debt that has the po-  
6 tential to harm its economic prosperity and national  
7 sovereignty;

8           (5) a list of the known or speculated collateral  
9 listed by the respective country for the debts in-  
10 curred by Belt and Road Initiative projects referred  
11 to in paragraph (1);

12           (6) a list of the known assets owned by the  
13 Government of the People’s Republic of China or  
14 state-owned enterprises in the People’s Republic of  
15 China, including telecommunications and critical in-  
16 frastructure; and

17           (7) a list of known activities at research institu-  
18 tions or institutions of higher education controlled or  
19 financed by the Government of the People’s Republic  
20 of China or state-owned enterprises in the People’s  
21 Republic of China.

22 (c) SUBMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF REPORT.—

23           (1) INITIAL SUBMISSION.—Not later than 1  
24 year after the date on which the Secretary of State  
25 issues the directive described in subsection (a), the

1 Chief of Mission in each country shall submit the re-  
2 port required under subsection (a) to the Under Sec-  
3 retary of State for Political Affairs.

4 (2) DISTRIBUTION.—The Under Secretary shall  
5 prepare and distribute a report that includes all of  
6 the information from the individual country reports  
7 received pursuant to paragraph (1) to—

8 (A) the heads of other Bureaus and agen-  
9 cies of the Department of State, as appropriate;

10 (B) the United States International Devel-  
11 opment Finance Corporation;

12 (C) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
13 the Senate;

14 (D) the Committee on Armed Services of  
15 the Senate;

16 (E) the Select Committee on Intelligence  
17 of the Senate;

18 (F) the Committee on Finance of the Sen-  
19 ate;

20 (G) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
21 the House of Representatives;

22 (H) the Committee on Armed Services of  
23 the House of Representatives;

24 (I) the Permanent Select Committee on In-  
25 telligence of the House of Representatives; and

1 (J) the Committee on Ways and Means of  
2 the House of Representatives.

3 **SEC. 4. NOTIFICATION OF FUTURE BELT AND ROAD INITIA-**  
4 **TIVE PROJECTS.**

5 After the reports required under section 3 have been  
6 prepared and submitted, the Secretary of State shall re-  
7 quire the respective Embassy and the China Desk at the  
8 Department of State of any project described in section  
9 3(b)(2) not later than 30 days after the date on which  
10 the Country China Officer is informed of such project.

11 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE REPORT OF BELT AND**  
12 **ROAD INITIATIVE PROJECTS.**

13 During the 10-year period beginning on the date of  
14 the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of State  
15 for Political Affairs shall submit an annual report to Con-  
16 gress that—

17 (1) contains all findings relating projects con-  
18 trolled or financed by the Government of the Peo-  
19 ple's Republic of China or state-owned enterprises in  
20 the People's Republic of China submitted by Coun-  
21 try China Officers through the process described in  
22 section 3(b)(2) during the 12-month reporting pe-  
23 riod; and

24 (2) includes updated findings and analyses re-  
25 lated to paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of section 3(b).

1 **SEC. 6. ANNUAL STRATEGY TO COUNTER PRC INFLUENCE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Country China Officer at  
3 each respective embassy, in consultation with the Chief of  
4 Mission for the respective country, shall develop a com-  
5 prehensive, country-specific strategy to counter the influ-  
6 ence of the People’s Republic of China, including a plan  
7 to counter anti-American messaging by the People’s Re-  
8 public of China, within their country of responsibility.

9 (b) USE OF STRATEGY.—The strategy developed pur-  
10 suant to subsection (a) shall be used to equip all personnel  
11 across all embassies, consulates, and other diplomatic  
12 posts in the respective country of responsibility with the  
13 tools needed to effectively counter the influence of the Peo-  
14 ple’s Republic of China in their respective context and  
15 country of responsibility.

16 (c) SUBMISSION.—The Chief of Mission shall submit,  
17 during the 10-year period beginning on the date of the  
18 enactment of this Act, an annual report to the Under Sec-  
19 retary of State for Political Affairs that—

20 (1) describes the implementation of the strategy  
21 developed pursuant to subsection (a) during the re-  
22 porting period; and

23 (2) assesses specific challenges and opportuni-  
24 ties relating to the People’s Republic of China in the  
25 respective country of responsibility.



1 (d) DISTRIBUTION.—The Under Secretary shall sub-  
2 mit an annual report that summarizes the information  
3 contained in the reports received pursuant to subsection  
4 (c) to the heads of the Bureaus of the Department of  
5 State, as appropriate.

6 (e) EXCLUSIONS.—Countries with limited or no in-  
7 vestments by the Government of the People’s Republic of  
8 China shall be excluded from the strategy developed pur-  
9 suant to subsection (a).

10 **SEC. 7. PROCUREMENT PROJECTIONS.**

11 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Country China Officer  
12 at each respective embassy, in consultation with other em-  
13 bassy personnel, shall submit, during the 10-year period  
14 beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, an  
15 annual report to the Under Secretary of State for Political  
16 Affairs that—

17 (1) describes the procurement and infrastruc-  
18 ture needs of their respective country of responsi-  
19 bility; and

20 (2) assesses specific challenges and opportuni-  
21 ties relating to potential financing by the People’s  
22 Republic of China for procurement and infrastruc-  
23 ture projects to meet such needs.

24 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—The Under Secretary shall sub-  
25 mit an annual report that summarizes the information

1 contained in the reports received pursuant to subsection  
2 (a) to—

3 (1) the heads of the Bureaus of the Department  
4 of State, as appropriate; and

5 (2) other instrumentalities of the Federal Gov-  
6 ernment, including the United States International  
7 Development Finance Corporation.

8 **SEC. 8. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DEVELOPMENT**  
9 **FINANCE.**

10 It is the sense of Congress that, as the People's Re-  
11 public of China's influence grows through infrastructure  
12 (particularly infrastructure that can easily be shifted from  
13 economic to military uses), the United States Inter-  
14 national Development Finance Corporation should  
15 prioritize providing alternative financing opportunities  
16 that increase port and air field capacity of countries  
17 that—

18 (1) meet the investment criteria set forth in the  
19 BUILD Act of 2018 (division F of Public Law 115-  
20 254); and

21 (2) are targets of the predatory infrastructure  
22 development scheme of the People's Republic of  
23 China commonly known as the Belt and Road Initia-  
24 tive.

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