

My name is Jackie Deal. I live in Washington, but grew up in Montgomery County and have spent the last two decades researching China's military strategy. This work inspired me to testify that HB894 is necessary to protect Marylanders and your infrastructure.

China under Xi Jinping, the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, has a strategy of "military-civil fusion." As part of military-civil fusion, the party claims the data of even nominally private or commercial actors to use that information for state purposes.

In conjunction with this policy, China under Xi has increasingly targeted the United States at the subnational, or state and local, level.

China is targeting state and local governments in Maryland to secure contracts for its firms so that they can amass data and leverage to coerce Marylanders.

So we need this bill to counter that even if it costs Marylanders more in the short term. And I'm sorry that decades of failed policy in Washington has put us in this position. But as you know, Xi Jinping is pursuing the "China Dream" — which if he succeeds will be the U.S.'s nightmare.

Since 2017 Xi has demanded that all Chinese firms and people secretly provide intelligence to the state. So any Chinese company with operations or products in Maryland would have to comply.

That's why the FBI recently put out a warning about Chinese drones such as DJI drones in particular, encouraging "U.S. critical infrastructure owners and operators to procure drones" manufactured by U.S. companies. The FBI knows that there's a problem, but it can't get folks in D.C. to fix it, so it's up to the states.

DJI and other Chinese drones are cheap and appear to work, but reports from the war in Ukraine (e.g., <https://tinyurl.com/4e7u7kww>) suggest that Russians are using Chinese software to track Ukraine's DJI drones and the people flying them in real time to target them. So how safe is that?

Drones are part of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which Xi says China must dominate, and so are autonomous vehicles. Xi has banned Teslas from sensitive areas on the mainland. So why is Maryland buying buses made by Tesla's state-backed Chinese competitor BYD?

And it's not just dependence on China for things that fly or drive that we have to worry about — it's also biotech and pharmaceutical products, as we saw during the

pandemic, as well as other elements of our critical infrastructure and network systems, from utility grid inputs to computers, printers, security cameras, and scanners. They're all part of Xi's vision of being a "network great power" and "winning" the 21st century.

Unfortunately, however, if Xi's China wins, then Maryland and Marylanders lose. That's why bills like HB894 are necessary to protect this great state.

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