

Honorable Senators

Please vote for HB0894.

This bill as amended, would prohibit Maryland from using funds to purchase technology products, and/or services from manufacturers or other providers that are owned by, affiliated with and/or unduly influenced by countries subject to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR).

Allowing ITAR listed countries into our procurement system poses significant risks to national security, the economy, and critical infrastructure. ITAR listed countries could exploit vulnerabilities in the supply chain, potentially leading to catastrophic effects on security and the digital economy. Also, enacting legislation to prohibit procurement bids to countries under embargo aligns with responsible governance and upholds Maryland's Integrity by ensuring our state's commitment to global peace and our contribution to national security efforts.

For instance, the purchase of U.S. farmland by foreign entities raises concerns about food security and national interests. Legislation has been introduced here and in other states to prevent foreign adversaries/ITAR listed countries from purchasing real estate, including agricultural land, to safeguard against malign foreign influence.

The Department of Homeland Security emphasizes the need for additional authority to address supply chain risks effectively and protect against threats posed by foreign-based suppliers like Kaspersky Lab (Russia), ZTE (China), and Huawei (China).

In summary, allowing ITAR listed countries into the Maryland procurement system can compromise national security, economic stability, and critical infrastructure. Vigilance and measures to safeguard against such risks are crucial to protect the country's interests.

This bill passed the House without any unfavorable testimony.

Please vote for HB0894.

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