



ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS  
REPRESENTATIVE JAMES P. MCGOVERN, CHAIRMAN  
SENATOR MARCO RUBIO, COCHAIRMAN  
October 31, 2019

Mark A. Morgan  
Acting Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Dear Acting Commissioner Morgan:

We are writing to express our concern that imports made with forced labor from China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) have entered the United States. We ask that you take all necessary action to ensure that the United States and American consumers are not complicit in the mass surveillance and internment of over one million Uyghurs and other ethnic minority groups in the XUAR, actions which may constitute "crimes against humanity."

Specifically, we ask Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to use its authority under 19 U.S.C. §1307 to investigate and block imports made with forced labor in the XUAR from entering the U.S. market and, where appropriate, pursue criminal investigations related to the use of forced labor to produce goods being imported into the United States.

We note the action taken by the CBP recently to block the import of garments produced by the Hetian Taida Apparel Company in the XUAR. This step sends an important message, but there is compelling evidence to suggest that manufacturing using forced labor is not only widespread but integral to the Chinese government's campaign of repression in the XUAR. There is a substantial risk that apparel made in the XUAR, or with XUAR manufactured components, is made with forced labor. The risk of forced labor is so great that it is difficult, if not impossible, for companies to conduct appropriate due diligence of their supply chains in the region. In addition, evidence suggests that if a factory in the XUAR employs forced labor, the entire corporate group that controls the factory is likely affected by forced labor.

It is our understanding that when information reasonably indicates that merchandise covered by Section 1307 is being imported, the CBP Commissioner can issue a withhold release order (WRO) to prevent goods from entering the U.S. market. Numerous media reports show that products and materials made with forced or involuntary labor in the XUAR are present in the supply chains of companies that sell to consumers in the United States, including gloves made by the Yili Zhouwan Clothing Manufacturing Company and yarn from the Huafu Fashion Company used in products sold by Adidas, H&M, and Esprit. We have included a list of companies reportedly involved in manufacturing with forced labor in the XUAR.

Forced labor is part of a larger Chinese government policy of social control in the XUAR. The Chinese government offers subsidies to companies that operate factories in the XUAR and they employ current and former detainees of the internment camps who work in food, textile, and other manufacturing jobs, including electronics. There are also reports that forced or involuntary labor is required of individuals who have not been detained. When parents are detained or engaged in forced labor, authorities often remove their children from their families in a campaign to systematically detach them from their ethnic, language, and religious roots.

It seems that the evidence available meets the evidentiary standard outlined in regulations at 19 CFR 12.42(e). We ask you to issue a WRO that includes companies identified as producing textiles or other manufactured goods in the XUAR with forced labor.

In addition, there are a substantial number of prominent Chinese and Hong Kong-based companies with major garment, yarn spinning and agricultural operations in the XUAR or that manufacture products with materials processed in the XUAR. Working with other relevant agencies, and with information provided by nongovernmental experts, we ask that you provide us with a report that includes all the products made, wholly or in part, with forced labor from the XUAR and a list of Chinese companies engaged in the introduction of such goods to global supply chains. If this report develops additional evidence that a wide array of goods are being made with prohibited forms of forced, slave, convict, or indentured labor, we ask that you publish a formal finding on the companies involved to ensure that U.S. consumers are not subsidizing egregious human rights abuses in the XUAR.

It is time the Administration took aggressive action to stop all imports of forced labor-made goods assembled or manufactured in the XUAR and to fully enforce Section 1307 as Congress intended.

We look forward to working with you on this important matter. If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Stivers, Staff Director of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, at (202) 226-3821 or [jonathan.stivers@mail.house.gov](mailto:jonathan.stivers@mail.house.gov) and Peter Mattis, Deputy Staff Director, at (202) 226-3798 or [peter.mattis@mail.house.gov](mailto:peter.mattis@mail.house.gov).

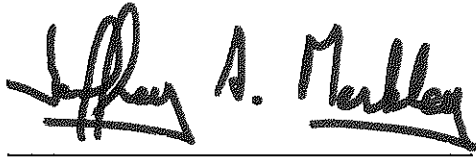
Sincerely,




James P. McGovern  
Chair



Marco Rubio  
Cochair



Senator Jeffrey A. Merkley  
Commissioner



Senator Steve Daines  
Commissioner



Representative Nancy Kaptur  
Commissioner



Representative Christopher Smith  
Commissioner



Representative Thomas R. Suozzi  
Commissioner



Representative Vicky Hartzler  
Commissioner