

**Committees:**

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## **Representative Angie King Ohio House District 84**

**Sponsor Testimony House Bill 1  
House Public Safety Committee  
March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Chairman Abrams, Vice Chair Miller, and Ranking Member Thomas, and esteemed members of the House Public Safety Committee, thank you for allowing me to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 1, Ohio's Property Protection Act. Ohio's Property Protection Act is long overdue, this important legislation provides needed protection to our communities, safeguards Ohio's military installations and critical infrastructure such as: oil refineries, electric generating and water treatment facilities, communications and transportation sectors. The expanding footprint of foreign adversary real estate ownership in the U.S. is generating significant national security and food security concerns, with fears of economic surveillance and critical infrastructure manipulation.<sup>1</sup>

Half of U.S. states now restrict foreign ownership of farmland. Since 2023 Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia enacted new laws or tightened reins on foreign land ownership.<sup>2</sup> As legislators,

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/23\\_0913\\_ia\\_23-333-ia\\_u\\_homeland-threat-assessment-2024\\_508C\\_V6\\_13Sep23.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/23_0913_ia_23-333-ia_u_homeland-threat-assessment-2024_508C_V6_13Sep23.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/23\\_0913\\_ia\\_23-333-ia\\_u\\_homeland-threat-assessment-2024\\_508C\\_V6\\_13Sep23.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/23_0913_ia_23-333-ia_u_homeland-threat-assessment-2024_508C_V6_13Sep23.pdf) <https://nationalaglawcenter.org/foreign-investments-in-ag/>  
[https://www.agweb.com/news/policy/politics/missouri-moves-tighten-reins-foreign-land-ownership?mkt\\_tok=ODQzLVlHQi03OTMAAAGLRHBkHmtuui3K5txbPqG6FtMYECtGeZHZcOz8fxuSA\\_o7Bq2N3r7zMQFnEew4d2Oojex1hSLyalF1fG4ZPPw9moA1uNomQrKKP-FjPicaSUHWakQQUw](https://www.agweb.com/news/policy/politics/missouri-moves-tighten-reins-foreign-land-ownership?mkt_tok=ODQzLVlHQi03OTMAAAGLRHBkHmtuui3K5txbPqG6FtMYECtGeZHZcOz8fxuSA_o7Bq2N3r7zMQFnEew4d2Oojex1hSLyalF1fG4ZPPw9moA1uNomQrKKP-FjPicaSUHWakQQUw)

we have a responsibility to protect Ohio from those who seek to undermine and destroy our American values and way of life. The Peoples Republic of China – Communist China – has not hidden the fact that despite being a major trading partner of the United States, has positioned itself as an adversary of the U.S., politically and economically, with the stated intention of ensuring they overtake America as the world's leading power.

It is also no secret that China uses nontraditional means to gather intelligence within the boundaries of the United States. In fact, the U.S. Department of Justice calls Chinese espionage the FBI's greatest counterintelligence priority.<sup>3</sup> Land ownership by nations like Communist China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Russia, and North Korea carry fundamentally different risks and challenges than from friendly or allied nations such as Canada or the Netherlands.

While much of the media focus has been on the acquisition of agricultural land, the national and state security implications are far more multi-faceted. (Intellectual theft, hacking, spying, fentanyl epidemic) In 2023, the nation was shocked as numerous Chinese surveillance balloons, the size of three school buses equipped with solar panels and surveillance equipment flew over the United States, drifting over sensitive military facilities while transmitting data it collected back to Beijing before being shot down.<sup>4</sup>

In South Carolina a Chinese biomedical company's pending \$28 million purchase of 500 acres near the U.S. Army's Cyber Command headquarters spurred their state senate to pass legislation to restrict land sales to foreign adversaries.<sup>5</sup> In Texas, a Chinese millionaire, former army officer, with plans to create a wind farm & tap in to the U.S. electric grid, bought up more than 130,000 acres of Texas land, some of it near a U.S. Airforce base. The state of Texas responded with a ban on such infrastructure projects by those with direct ties to China.<sup>6</sup>

Chinese parent company of Gotion Inc., which intends to build two electric battery plants in Michigan, employs 923 Chinese Communist Party (CCP) members, including its CEO, according to their 2022 ESG report.<sup>7</sup> The corporate bylaws of Gotion High-Tech requires the company to "carry out Party activities in accordance with the Constitution of the Communist Party of China."<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/biden-admin-planned-to-keep-chinese-spy-balloon-news-a-secret-from-the-public-and-even-congress-report/ar-AA1IXiDU>

<sup>4</sup> <https://nypost.com/2023/04/03/chinese-spy-balloon-gathered-intelligence-from-us-military-sites/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2023-03-23/sc-senate-oks-bill-barring-foreign-adversary-land-holdings>

<sup>6</sup> <https://nypost.com/2021/08/12/texas-reportedly-blocks-chinese-billionaires-wind-farm-plans/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://dailycaller.com/2023/08/31/gotion-ccp-michigan-battery-plant/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://dailycaller.com/2023/08/31/gotion-ccp-michigan-battery-plant/>

Security concerns extend beyond agriculture land to empty distribution centers and warehouses. Despite strong local resistance, Gotion purchased a Kmart distribution center in Manteno, Illinois for \$139 million in December and plan to build a \$2 billion dollar battery manufacturing plant.<sup>9 10</sup>

While the policies of certain authoritarian countries are noted as threat to our American values and way of life, it's essential to distinguish them from American citizens who are of the same descent or heritage. It is also important to note that the actions of these adversarial authoritarian governments do not always represent the views or values of their people. The threat comes from the programs and policies pursued by their governments. Ohio's Property Protection Act plays a crucial role in safeguarding our critical infrastructure and military installations, deterring and preventing potential attacks.

Chair Abrams and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important piece of legislation. I would now like to invite Representative Klopfenstein to share his testimony.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/ccp-tied-ev-company-backed-dems-buys-michigan-land-miles-military-bases>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/michigan-township-green-charter-votes-out-its-entire-local-government-over-china-linked-ev-battery-maker-gotion-s-plan-to-build-a-factory-there/ar-AA1jFoRj>