



Michigan-China Economic and Security Review Group

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
4 April 2024

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Former United States Ambassadors Request DOJ Review Gotion Engagements under Foreign Agents Registration Act

Lansing, MI - Today, through the Michigan-China Economic and Security Review Group, former United States Ambassadors Peter Hoekstra and Joseph Cella sent a letter to the United States Assistant Attorney General for National Security, Matthew Olsen, and the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) Unit requesting an investigation of the engagements by various officials in the State of Michigan with Gotion, Inc. and its related companies, and whether they constitute violations of the FARA Act.

Hoekstra and Cella released the following statement today:

"From the outset of this project, due diligence, strict scrutiny and transparency have been woefully lacking. Many legitimate questions from elected officials and citizens alike remain, particularly involving the national security threat presented by this company based in The People's Republic of China (PRC) which maintains ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Unfortunately, to advance the proposed project, officials in the State of Michigan who are directly engaged with Gotion, Inc. are shielding themselves from these questions through the binding and punitive 5 year non-disclosure agreements, justifying the secrecy on account of "competition" saying they are "commonplace" with such economic developments.

One year ago, US intelligence agencies warned local and state officials across the country to guard themselves against such PRC-based projects, recommending they refuse to sign agreements that run counter to U.S. national security and economic security, even if they appear to benefit a state or local government in the short term. The agencies further recommended insisting on public and transparent terms for all such agreements and share such engagements with other local leaders and U.S. authorities. Unconscionably, some elected officials and other leaders in Michigan have done the opposite.

To protect our national security the U.S. government has strict reporting and disclosure requirement for those individuals advocating on behalf of foreign interests. The Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) outlines the reporting requirements and serious consequences for those who fail to comply with the law. We have serious concerns that a number of individuals advocating on behalf of this protect are potentially subject to FARA and are not complying with the law.

The speed and secrecy which officials in the State of Michigan have operated with State and local leaders imperils our national security and must be given the strictest of scrutiny through both a CFIUS Review and an investigation to ascertain FARA has been violated."

Peter Hoekstra served as United States Ambassador to the Netherlands from 2018-21; he previously served on the U.S. House of Representatives' House Intelligence Committee from 2001-11 and represented Michigan's 2nd congressional district from 1993 to 2011. Joseph Cella served as the United States Ambassador to Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tuvalu, and Tonga from 2019-21.