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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Lutnick:

I write to request information regarding the Commerce Department's efforts, if any, to address national security concerns posed by the Chinese chip company Bitmain—a manufacturer of cryptocurrency mining hardware with close ties to American Bitcoin, a cryptocurrency mining venture cofounded by President Trump's son, Eric Trump. On March 17, 2026, Bloomberg reported that an investigation into whether Bitmain equipment “could be remotely controlled and used to damage the power grid or repurposed for espionage . . . continued at least into the early months of Trump's second term, prompting discussions in the National Security Council.”¹ As Congress considers digital asset market structure legislation, we must ensure that politically connected crypto interests do not receive special treatment and undermine our national security.

The Commerce Department plays an important role in protecting U.S. economic and national security, including through export controls and authorities to secure U.S. supply chains.² The Department of Commerce exercised its authority as recently as last year, when it blacklisted Sophgo Technologies Ltd. (“Sophgo”), an affiliate of Bitmain, for “acting at the behest of Beijing to further the [China's] goals of indigenous advanced chip production, which poses a risk to U.S. and allied national security.”³ The Department of Commerce also has authorities to investigate foreign threats to information and communications technology and services.⁴ Finally, the Department of Commerce plays a role in interagency deliberations, including at the National

¹ Bloomberg, “How Eric Trump Became an Ally of One of China's Biggest Crypto Companies,” Ryan Weeks, March 17, 2026, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2026-03-17/trump-s-son-and-a-mysterious-chinese-crypto-giant-are-in-business-together>.

² U.S. Department of Commerce, “Enforcement,” <https://www.bis.gov/enforcement>; U.S. Department of Commerce, “Office of Information and Communications Technology and Services (OICTS),” <https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/oicts>.

³ U.S. Department of Commerce, “Commerce Strengthens Restrictions on Advanced Computing Semiconductors to Enhance Foundry Due Diligence and Prevent Diversion to PRC,” January 15, 2025, <https://www.bis.gov/press-release/commerce-strengthens-restrictions-advanced-computing-semiconductors-enhance-foundry-due-diligence-prevent>; Reuters, “Exclusive: US plans to blacklist company that ordered TSMC chip found in Huawei processor, source says,” Alexandra Alper and Karen Freifeld, December 20, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/technology/us-plans-blacklist-company-that-ordered-tsmc-chip-found-huawei-processor-source-2024-12-20>.

⁴ U.S. Department of Commerce, “Office of Information and Communications Technology and Services (OICTS),” <https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/oicts>.

Security Council, around technology companies as well as information and communications equipment linked to China.

Bitmain, the “world’s largest manufacturer of crypto mining hardware,” poses potential risks to national security—and by extension—the American economy.⁵ Bitmain controls 90% of the market for Bitcoin mining computers, which are bundled up into massive, energy-extensive warehouses to process crypto transactions and produce new tokens.⁶ Bitmain’s affiliate has been linked to the diversion of advanced AI chips to China’s military.⁷ According to a recent Senate Select Committee on Intelligence report, Bitmain itself had “connections to the CCP” and its facilities could give China an “opportunity to pursue a full suite of intelligence collection activities.”⁸ Recent reports also describe investigations into whether Bitmain’s equipment “could be remotely controlled and used to damage the power grid.”⁹

Facing potential investigations, Bitmain’s strategy has reportedly been to enter into “an alliance with one of President Donald Trump’s children,” specifically Eric Trump, who is the cofounder of the crypto mining company American Bitcoin.¹⁰ In a recent interview, sitting next to his business partner Eric Trump, American Bitcoin CEO Michael Ho confirmed that Bitmain “has been a leading manufacturer for us.”¹¹ But Bitmain reportedly “presents American Bitcoin more as a partner than as a simple customer.”¹² Specifically, Bitmain gave Eric Trump’s American Bitcoin “unusual” terms, including exchanging hundreds of million dollars worth of equipment for future, “pledged,” Bitcoin rather than cash—a deal that some industry experts viewed as “distinctly generous to American Bitcoin.”¹³ As reports have summarized, this “underscores the Trump sons’ business dealings with Bitmain, presenting another potential conflict of interest for the president as his family explores new ventures in cryptocurrencies while his administration is loosening restrictions on them.”¹⁴

⁵ Bloomberg, “Chinese Crypto Giant Bitmain Plans US Factory in Trump-Era Push,” Ryan Weeks, July 28, 2025, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-07-29/chinese-crypto-giant-plans-first-us-factory-in-trump-era-gambit>.

⁶ Bloomberg, “US Bitcoin Miners Disrupted by Chinese Supplier Under Scrutiny,” David Pan, February 13, 2025, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-02-13/us-bitcoin-btc-miners-disrupted-by-chinese-supplier-under-scrutiny>.

⁷ U.S. House Select Committee on the CCP, “Moolenaar: TSMC Chips to Huawei ‘A Catastrophic Failure of Export Control Policy,’” October 23, 2024, <https://selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/media/press-releases/moolenaar-tsmc-chips-huawei-catastrophic-failure-export-control-policy>.

⁸ U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, “Report to Accompany S. 2342, Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026,” July 29, 2025, p. 19, <https://www.intelligence.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/CRPT-119srpt51.pdf>.

⁹ Bloomberg, “How Eric Trump Became an Ally of One of China’s Biggest Crypto Companies,” Ryan Weeks, March 17, 2026, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2026-03-17/trump-s-son-and-a-mysterious-chinese-crypto-giant-are-in-business-together>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Bloomberg Television, “Eric Trump Says He’s Committed to Own American Bitcoin Shares,” September 17, 2025, <https://youtu.be/W15GL3O1gqs?feature=shared&t=364>.

¹² Bloomberg, “How Eric Trump Became an Ally of One of China’s Biggest Crypto Companies,” Ryan Weeks, March 17, 2026, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2026-03-17/trump-s-son-and-a-mysterious-chinese-crypto-giant-are-in-business-together>.

¹³ *Id.*; The Guardian, “Chinese company gives an Eric Trump crypto firm preferential access to tech,” Aram Roston, October 15, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/oct/15/eric-trump-crypto-china-bitmain>.

¹⁴ Bloomberg, “Chinese Maker Behind Most of World’s Bitcoin Miners Has Been Focus of US National Security Probe,” Anthony Cormier, Jake Bleiberg, and David Kocieniewski, November 21, 2025,

It is unclear what steps, if any, the Commerce Department is taking to address Bitmain's potential national security concerns. In light of Trump family ties to the company, it is more important than ever that the Commerce Department is transparent regarding its actions surrounding Bitmain. National security decisions on U.S. export controls and trade laws must be insulated from improper political influence.

In effort to better understand considerations that the Commerce Department has taken to assess whether to use enforcement action against Bitmain and Sophgo, I ask you to answer the following questions by April 9, 2026:

1. Provide copies of all communications, including but not limited to emails, text messages, phone call and meeting records, and calendar appointments, between any employee of the Department of Commerce and any employee of Bitmain between January 20, 2025, and March 26, 2025.
2. Provide copies of all communications, including but not limited to emails, text messages, phone call and meeting records, and calendar appointments, between any employee of the Department of Commerce and any employee of American Bitcoin between January 20, 2025, and March 26, 2025. To the extent such communications exist, did any reference or refer to Bitmain?
3. Provide copies of all communications, including but not limited to emails, text messages, phone call and meeting records, and calendar appointments, between any employee of the Department of Commerce and any member of President Trump's immediate family, including Eric Trump, between January 20, 2025, and March 26, 2025.
4. Given BIS's January 2025 addition of Sophgo Technologies Ltd. to the Entity List, what additional actions will BIS take to address potential national security risks from Bitmain and People's Republic of China (PRC)-linked digital asset mining equipment?
5. Do you agree that digital asset mining equipment "designed, developed, manufactured or supplied by entities under the ownership or control of, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of, a foreign adversary" could present security risks under the Department's Information and Communications Technology and Services (ICTS) rules?
6. What specific actions have you taken to insulate the Commerce Department's national security decisions from the influence of firms that have business ties to the Trump family? What additional actions do you plan to take?

Sincerely,

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-11-21/chinese-manufacturer-bitmain-faces-us-security-review>.



Elizabeth Warren
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