

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

December 31, 2024

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen:

We write regarding the major cybersecurity incident that the Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”) disclosed to the Senate Banking and House Financial Services Committees yesterday involving a China state-sponsored Advanced Persistent Threat (“APT”) actor breaking into Treasury’s computer systems and remotely accessing information maintained by Treasury users.¹ This breach of federal government information is extremely concerning. As you know, Treasury maintains some of the most highly sensitive information on U.S. persons throughout government, including tax information, business beneficial ownership, and suspicious activity reports. This information must be vigilantly protected from theft or surveillance by our foreign adversaries, including the Chinese Communist Party (“CCP”), who seek to harm the United States. As such, the fact that a CCP-sponsored APT actor was able to access Treasury’s information systems is unacceptable and raises serious questions about the protocols for safeguarding sensitive federal government information from future cybersecurity incidents.

In light of these concerns, we request that Treasury provide the Committees with a briefing on the cybersecurity incident by no later than January 10, 2025, that at minimum covers:

- The specific details of the cybersecurity incident, including when and how it occurred and which China-sponsored APT actor is responsible;
- The type and extent of information accessed by the CCP-aligned actor;
- The extent to which Treasury was aware, prior to the cybersecurity incident, of cybersecurity vulnerabilities related to the software services that BeyondTrust—or any other third-party software service provider—provides to Treasury; and
- The steps Treasury has taken, and plans to take, to ensure that a similar cybersecurity incident does not occur again.

¹ Letter from Aditi Hardikar, Assistant Secretary of Management, U.S. Department of the Treasury, to Chairman Sherrod Brown and Ranking Member Tim Scott, U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs (Dec. 30, 2024).

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Tim Scott in blue ink.

Tim Scott
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs

Handwritten signature of French Hill in blue ink.

French Hill
Vice Chair
House Committee on Financial Services