

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4457

To prohibit companies doing business in the United States from amplifying propaganda originating from the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 5, 2020

Mr. KENNEDY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To prohibit companies doing business in the United States from amplifying propaganda originating from the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLES.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Combating Chinese
5 Propaganda Act” or the “CCP Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) PROPAGANDA.—The term “propaganda”
 2 means the propagation of an idea or narrative, espe-
 3 cially of a biased or misleading nature that is in-
 4 tended to influence, promote, or publicize a par-
 5 ticular cause or point of view.

6 (2) UNITED STATES COMPANY.—The term
 7 “United States company” has the meaning given
 8 such term in section 4(a) of the Defend Trade Se-
 9 crets Act of 2016 (34 U.S.C. 41310(a)).

10 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION AGAINST COMPANIES DOING BUSI-**
 11 **NESS IN THE UNITED STATES MAKING PUB-**
 12 **LIC STATEMENTS OR TAKING ACTIONS AT**
 13 **THE BEHEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE**
 14 **PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
 16 (b), it shall be unlawful for any United States company
 17 or foreign-owned company doing business in the United
 18 States from cooperating with any effort by the Govern-
 19 ment of the People’s Republic of China to coerce such
 20 company—

21 (1) to make public statements through tradi-
 22 tional media, social media, or advertising campaigns
 23 that reflect propaganda pushed by the Government
 24 of the People’s Republic of China;

1 (2) to take other actions contrary to their fidu-
2 ciary interests at the behest of the Government of
3 the People's Republic of China; or

4 (3) to furnish personal information regarding
5 Chinese dissidents to the Government of the People's
6 Republic of China.

7 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibition under subsection
8 (a) shall not apply to compliance with standard regulatory
9 requirements imposed by the Government of the People's
10 Republic of China that are necessary to protect the health
11 or safety of the general public.

12 (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any United States company
14 or foreign-owned company doing business in the
15 United States shall report to the Secretary of State
16 and the Secretary of Commerce each instance in
17 which the Government of the People's Republic of
18 China has pressured such company to violate the
19 prohibition under subsection (a).

20 (2) QUARTERLY REPORT.—The Secretary of
21 Commerce shall submit a quarterly report to Con-
22 gress that summarizes all of the incidents reported
23 under paragraph (1) during such quarter.

24 (d) PENALTIES.—

1 (1) CIVIL PENALTY.—Any United States com-
2 pany or foreign-owned company that fails to comply
3 with the reporting requirements set forth in sub-
4 section (c) shall be subject to a civil penalty equal
5 to not more than \$250,000.

6 (2) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—If any official of a
7 United States company or foreign-owned company
8 knowingly violates, or authorizes the violation of,
9 subsection (a)—

10 (A) the company shall be subject to a
11 criminal penalty of not more than \$1,000,000
12 for each such violation; and

13 (B) such official may be imprisoned for not
14 more than 20 years.

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