



Hearing on “U.S.-China Relations in 2021: Emerging Risks”

Opening Statement of Commissioner Kim Glas

September 8, 2021

Washington, DC

Thank you, Vice-Chairman Cleveland, and good morning. We are grateful to our witnesses for their excellent prepared testimony and look forward to an engaging discussion on these important matters.

Like 2020, this year was uniquely challenging in many ways. The Chinese government continued its ruthless campaign to bring Hong Kong to heel, demonstrating a total disregard for its commitments to the international community and the people of Hong Kong. Since Beijing implemented the sweeping National Security Law last year, Hong Kong’s formerly free and open society has become unrecognizable.

In January, the Hong Kong government arrested dozens of the city’s most prominent democracy advocates, kicking off a campaign of intimidation and incarceration that strikes at the heart of Hong Kong’s society. Democratic organizations and community groups in Hong Kong, many of which were pillars of the community for years, have been forced to disband as their organizers have been arrested and imprisoned.

In one of the most concerning developments this year, the Hong Kong government changed election rules to ensure that no advocates of democracy will be able to even run for office, let alone get elected to the legislature. This new policy seems to snuff out any hope of Hong Kongers reclaiming the rights that have been stolen from them.

Hong Kong’s information space is now in many ways eerily similar to that of the Mainland, as authorities have slowly but surely silenced independent media groups, shut down unions critical of the government’s policies, and fired educators. The U.S. government has acted swiftly to respond to these disturbing developments by removing some special treatment of Hong Kong, though I look forward to hearing from our witnesses about additional policy tools to address the city’s loss of freedoms.

Export controls have emerged in recent years as a powerful tool to protect U.S. national security as well as to prevent the transfer of technology that can be used to perpetuate human rights abuses in places such as Hong Kong and China. In 2018, Congress passed landmark bipartisan

legislation with the Export Control Reform Act and the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act, paving the way to addressing threats from Chinese industrial policies and predatory investment. These tools are crucial to strengthening U.S. economic growth and protecting national security.

Of course, these efforts must be balanced with maintaining U.S. technological competitiveness and an open investment environment. The challenge is not insurmountable, but the rapid evolution of cutting-edge technology does make it more complex. As China's methods of obtaining critical U.S. technologies become more elaborate across heavily globalized supply chains, we also recognize the need to monitor and re-evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of our systems to deal with new and emerging threats.

All of these topics require serious and careful consideration. I look forward to learning from all of you, and I especially look forward to your recommendations.

Before we begin, I would like to remind you that the testimonies and transcript from today's hearing will be posted on our website, www.uscc.gov. This is the Commission's final hearing for 2021, but we will resume our hearing cycle in January 2022.