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HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER
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Thank you, Chairman Tarwater, Ranking Member Probst, and the Members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify as a proponent on HB 2766, the Kansas Land and Military Installation Protection Act.

Throughout my 30-year career in the United States Army and two deployments to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, I understand the importance of national security and strong policies to counter our foreign adversaries and keep them at bay.

In my research and conversations with national security experts, it is clear that we are facing a new type of threat in the People's Republic of China, which is controlled by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The CCP has the goal of global dominance and usurping the United States as the world's premier military and economic power. In an attempt to achieve this goal, China has committed countless human rights violations, engaged in massive intellectual property theft from American corporations, conducted propaganda campaigns to shift public opinion, organized cyberattacks on critical infrastructure, and more.

Additionally, Chinese corporations acting on behalf of the government have been silently purchasing land in the United States and establishing a physical presence in our country. Since 2019, Chinese land ownership in the United States has grown over 30%. The close proximity of this land to military installations and critical infrastructure is even more concerning. In 2021, Fufeng Group, a Chinese firm, purchased 370 acres of land just 12 miles from Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota. Make no mistake: China is strategically positioning its corporations to collect sensitive military intelligence and threaten our armed forces and national security infrastructure.

Thankfully, states around the country are beginning to recognize the reality of this new threat and begin to act. HB 2766 sets the stage for Kansas to join the 15 states that have already enacted restrictions on land purchase by foreign adversarial nations. The bill would prohibit corporations domiciled or controlled by countries of concern (China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, and Venezuela) from purchasing or leasing land within 150 miles of a military installation. Additionally, the bill prohibits these companies from receiving any state or local incentives.

The Kansas Land and Military Installation Protection Act was developed over countless hours of conversation with national security professionals and industry members. We've narrowed the list of impacted nations to focus solely on countries of concern as defined by the federal government. By listing these countries in statute, the legislature will have the authority to add or remove countries from the list as international dynamics change. Several proposals across the country have focused solely on limiting foreign purchases of agricultural land; however, this issue is not

specific to a particular industry. Because of this, we've included commercial property in this legislation.

This legislation is in no way intended to strip away the individual rights of immigrants. To make that distinction clear, residential property and land ownership by lawful permanent residents are excluded from this legislation. This exclusion ensures that legal immigrants and dissidents fleeing authoritarian regimes can still fulfill their American Dream.

We've purposely selected the 150-mile radius based on input from military leaders. They believe 150 miles from a military installation is the minimum acceptable distance where they can adequately counter intelligence gathering from foreign adversaries.

Unfortunately, countering China will be the Cold War of the 21st Century and a problem that our nation will be dealing with for generations to come. Because of our globalized economy and the sophisticated nature of this new threat, we must be willing to take a new approach to counter the aggression of the CCP and other foreign adversaries. We can no longer continue to sit idly by and wait for the federal government to act. This is a threat that demands a response from policymakers at the state level. In fact, states are well-positioned to enact policies to secure our land, infrastructure, and people from foreign adversaries. HB 2766 is a great step in that direction. It will protect our military installations and ensure that Kansas is prepared to thwart any hostile infiltrations by our country's foreign adversaries.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Croft". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "C" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Representative Chris Croft
House Majority Leader