



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Tony Mattivi
Director

Kris W. Kobach
Attorney General

Before the House Committee on Commerce,
Labor and Economic Development
Regarding HB 2766 (Neutral)
Bob Stuart, Executive Officer
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
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Chairman Tarwater and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on HB 2766 and the underlying desire to address hostile foreign nations and their proxies and their desire to own and control Kansas land and resources. The KBI, together with our federal, state, local and tribal partners understand that our nation and our state are under unprecedented levels of attack. These unorthodox attacks come from foreign countries, their puppet states, companies owned by them and their citizens. This nontraditional warfare is being waged for the purpose of disrupting our way of life and taking control of our natural resources, infrastructure and work product. The KBI is aware of recent nationally observed trends in this regard. Acquiring land ownership, either overtly or covertly, with that kind of hidden malicious intent is something our state and our laws are ill equipped to address.

Additionally, our law enforcement partners in other states, particularly the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) has advised us that internationally based Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) are acquiring land overtly and through straw purchases under the guise of legalized marijuana grow operations.

The KBI supports the spirit and intent of HB 2766 but believes language in SB 446 may more adequately address two issues. Preliminarily, the KBI adopts and agrees with the Attorney General's written testimony regarding HB 2766, particularly as it regards two important observations. First, the ability of the countries listed in Section 2(c)(1) to use vassal or proxy countries or corporations to conceal their interests and operations. The KBI is aware via our partner agencies, that countries on the 2©(1) list already conceal their ownership activities. It would not be difficult for such a country to continue such veiling which would vitiate the intent of HB 2766.

Major General Evan L. Pettus, United State Air Force (U.S. Southern Command) recently wrote about his observations regarding the threat of one nation in particular, The People's Republic of

China (PRC).¹ General Pettus refers to the PRC's strategy as "Geostrategic Corruption" to describe the multipronged attempt to take over or disrupt key infrastructure capabilities in Latin American countries. The PRC benignly refers to this as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This initiative binds these countries into a quid pro quo which the PRC then leverages how they see fit.

Second, as noted above, the KBI observes an increase in reporting regarding DTO and transnational criminal syndicate acquisition and ownership of US land through shell corporations and individuals in their employ. OBN has noted instances where ultimate ownership and control appears to reside in Mexican drug cartels and Asian Organized Crime. When these criminal groups acquire the land they do not follow the law. OBN has numerous examples of structure fires due to extreme code violations. There are marked increases in human trafficking cases in and around the foreign land holdings. One interesting observation is that OBN is witnessing ketamine transshipment, distribution and use. Ketamine is not a normal drug of choice for Oklahomans but it IS one of the drugs of choice inside Asian organized crime.

As these criminal organizations and the way they do business are not currently covered by language in HB 2766 the KBI stands neutral and respectfully requests the Committee work the bill to come up with appropriate provisions that do so. Thank you again for the opportunity to present the KBI's position.

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¹[The Expanding Leverage of the People's Republic of China in Latin America: Implications for US National Security and Global Order > U.S. Southern Command > News \(southcom.mil\)](#)