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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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CHRISTOPHER D. CROFT
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Thank you, Mr. Chair, Ranking Member, and the Members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify as a proponent on HB 2290, the Kansas Land and Military Installation Protection Act.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has aggressively sought to undermine U.S. national security through intellectual property theft, cyberattacks, and land acquisitions near military bases – posing a direct threat to Kansas and the nation. Back in 2023, U.S. Officials were warning of as many as 100 instances where Chinese nationals had accessed military bases and sensitive sites.

Chinese corporations acting on behalf of their 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. Chinese entities have purchased land in close proximity to at least 19 military bases in the United States. For example, In 2021, Fufeng Group, a Chinese firm, purchased 370 acres of land just 12 miles from Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota. Other states include Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Washington.

Make no mistake: China is strategically positioning its corporations to collect sensitive military intelligence and threaten our armed forces and national security infrastructure.

Thankfully, state and national leaders around the country are waking up to the reality of this new threat and are beginning to act. HB 2290 sets the stage for Kansas to join other 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 100 miles of a military installation. Additionally, the bill prohibits these companies from receiving any state or local incentives.

Neighboring states have taken steps to protect their own land by through legislation or executive order, and similar proposals have again been introduced at the federal level. In accord with the federalist principals of government, State's must step up and do their part to defend our state and national security.

The Trump administration is making it a priority to protect "farmland and real estate near sensitive facilities" and has stated "The United States will establish new rules to stop United States companies and investors from investing in industries that advance the PRC's national Military-Civil Fusion strategy and stop PRC-affiliated persons from buying up critical American businesses and assets, allowing only those investments that serve American interests." Kansas farmers are the backbone of our nation's food supply, yet foreign adversaries are quietly busying up farmland across America – including right here in Kansas.

This bill builds on last year's efforts while addressing the key concerns raised during that time. It introduces several changes. Instead of listing specific counties, it now references the federal list of foreign adversaries as of April 1, 2025. The bill raises the threshold for a *de minimis* interest from 5% to 10%, and reduces the required distance between foreign principals and military installations from 150 miles to 100 miles.

Additionally, it applies only prospectively, removes CFIUS from its provisions, and eliminates the requirement to report suspected violations to the Attorney General. It grants foreign principals 360 days to divest under an agreement and mandates divestment within 180 days if found in violation. The bill also expands the number of legislative committees receiving reports from the Attorney General and clarifies reporting requirements.

Furthermore, it directs the fusion center oversight board to adjust its provisions in response to federal updates on terrorist organizations. Kansas State University will now be required to submit an annual report to the legislature and Attorney General detailing the status and trends of foreign land holding in Kansas. Lastly, the bill includes technical revisions to improve clarity and consistency.

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. It provides fair due process and ensures that legal immigrants and dissidents fleeing authoritarian regimes can still fulfill their American Dream.

Unfortunately, as I warned last year, 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. Indeed, it is the states that hold jurisdiction over land sales. Therefore, 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 2290 is a great step in that direction. This bill ensures that our military installations like Fort Riley, McConnell Air Force Base, and Fort Leavenworth remain secure from foreign adversarial influence that could threaten our national security and the thousands of service members stationed here. Kansas is prepared to thwart infiltration by our county's foreign adversaries.

Again, thank you for your consideration, and I ask that the committee report out HB 2290 favorable for passage.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Croft". The signature is stylized with a large, cursive "C" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Representative Chris Croft
House Majority Leader