

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 17, 2019

Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Reed:

We applaud your leadership in moving the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act through the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support. Passing this bill into law will be essential to supporting our service men and women, strengthening the military, and defending the United States. As part of this effort, we strongly urge you to ensure that any final agreement protects the future of America's 5G network by placing additional restrictions on U.S. companies conducting business with Huawei.

Specifically, as the bill goes to conference, we urge you to support the House provision prohibiting the Secretary of Commerce from removing Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. from the entities list without certifying that Huawei is not violating sanctions, stealing our intellectual property, or posing a threat to our telecommunications systems or critical infrastructure. This provision was offered as an amendment by Representative Mike Gallagher and adopted during House floor consideration of the FY2020 NDAA. We supported an identical amendment during Senate consideration because of the acute need to protect the U.S. from the threat that Huawei technology poses to U.S. national security. We believe these provisions are vital and hope they are included in any final NDAA agreement.

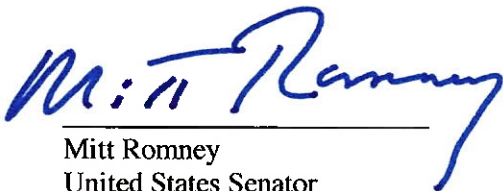
The provision is consistent with steps the administration is already taking to protect national security in this area. On May 15, 2019, President Trump issued a strong executive order to secure our information and communications technology and identified Huawei as a national security threat. We believe this was a correct and necessary step as the U.S. moves to adopt 5G technology.

It is imperative that Congress address known threats to the security of technology in the United States. Huawei is one such threat. Therefore, Huawei must meet strict standards to assure it is no longer a national security threat before being removed from the entities list.


We appreciate the work your offices have done, and are happy to support this effort in any way we can.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.


Sincerely,



Mitt Romney
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator