



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

December 13, 2024

Attn: Mr. Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Attn: Mr. Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
300 7th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Attn: Mr. Michael Whitaker
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Director Wray, Secretary Mayorkas, and Administrator Whitaker:

We write to request a classified briefing from your respective agencies in the upcoming week regarding the unidentified drone activity along the northeastern coast of the United States. Despite multiple requests from Members of Congress and New Jersey State Legislature for information, questions remain unanswered.

While the Pentagon has reiterated that these unmanned aerial systems (UAS) do not belong to the U.S. military, there is increasing concern that these drones are adversarial and could be conducting surveillance or intelligence collection while exploiting U.S. airspace. This activity compromises national security and public safety. In recent years, there has been an alarming uptick in incidents of UAS overflying critical infrastructure, special event spaces, and military installations across the country. For example:

- In California, a man was arrested for flying drones over and photographing Vandenberg Space Force Base. He was arrested while boarding an out-bound flight to China.¹
- Last fall, five drones flew over a nuclear-weapons experiment site in Nevada. The Department of Energy's Nevada National Security Site detected the drones but did not investigate the origins.²

¹ <https://nypost.com/2024/12/11/us-news/chinese-citizen-yinpiao-zhou-charged-with-flying-drone-taking-pictures-over-california-vandenberg-space-force-base/>

² <https://thehill.com/policy/defense/4937166-drone-flights-virginia-base/>

- In October, a fleet of drones entered restricted airspace over Langley Air Force Base for 17 days.³
- Nearly two years ago, the Chinese surveillance balloon flew across the U.S. for days, before it was taken as a serious threat.⁴

In addition to our concern surrounding the origins and intentions of these drones, we are also concerned by the lack of leadership exhibited by the intelligence community and Biden Administration to swiftly and effectively address these threats, as well as inform the American public. The contradictory and inconsistent responses from U.S. government agencies—with some claiming no involvement, others professing ignorance, and still others suddenly asserting definitive knowledge—have effectively signaled to our adversaries that the United States lacks a unified approach to protecting its airspace.

We respectfully request a classified briefing from the FBI, DHS, and the FAA open to all Members of Congress who wish to attend, no later than Thursday, December 19, 2024. We appreciate your prompt attention and look forward to the briefing.

Sincerely,



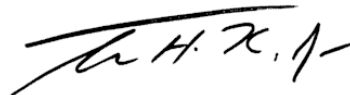
August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Mark E. Green, M.D.
Chairman
House Committee on Homeland Security



Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress



Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress



Chris Smith
Member of Congress

³ <https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/drones-military-pentagon-defense-331871f4>

⁴ <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/us-intelligence-officials-determined-chinese-spy-balloon-used-us-inter-rcna131150>