

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2012

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro,

In November of last year the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission released its 2011 report to Congress. The report documented select aspects of the US-China relationship which the Commission used to formulate recommendations for US government action. Among the Commission's recommendations are:

- That the Government Accountability Office prepares an inventory of specific measures agreed to as part of the Strategic and Economic Dialogue and the Joint Committee on Commerce and Trade discussions as well as the implementation efforts of the Chinese.
- That the Government Accountability Office evaluates the Department of Defense's early warning systems to ensure that the department will have sufficient timely warning of a PLA attack.

Both of these recommendations are based on extensive research by the members and staff of the Commission and these studies, if GAO completes them, will provide information and material for action by Congress at a critical time in US-China relations.

China's economy has greatly developed over the past three decades, but that growth has not been matched by equal levels of liberalization; China's economy remains dominated by state owned enterprises and government control. While the US government engages the Chinese government through bilateral channels, such as the Strategic and Economic Dialogue, significant problems remain unresolved and even unaddressed. Gary Locke, as Commerce Secretary, said that "the fundamental problem often boils down to the distance between the promise of China's government and its actions." As such, we respectfully request that GAO conduct an assessment of what China has committed to and then failed to implement in the dialogues described above. We suspect that your findings will confirm our suspicion that there is significant disconnect between China's promises and its actions. Such a disconnect could warrant a comprehensive re-examination of US-China policy, our bilateral approach and future engagement. GAO's findings would provide an invaluable resource for Congress to convene hearings further examining this issue and ultimately develop future policy options.

Our second request strikes at the heart of government's responsibility to its citizens—providing for the common defense. For US national security there is no higher requirement than

adequate warning ahead of a possible military attack, ultimately in the hopes of preventing such an attack. A GAO evaluation of the Department of Defense's early warning systems is of the utmost importance especially given China's increasingly aggressive military posture and cyber-espionage activities. The 2011 Commission report states that many of the "PLA's evolving capabilities" appear to be targeted to counter "US military capabilities or to exploit potential weaknesses." China's large missile force, growing anti-satellite capability, and vast cyber operations will be devastating weapons against a highly network reliant force such as our own. The Commission also highlights the historical precedence of China initiating armed conflict. If China were to attack the United States with the array of weapons it has developed, would the Department of Defense be able to detect and recognize such a move in a timely fashion and act to thwart it? Failure to do so could have devastating consequences for US national security. As such, GAO's assessment of DoD readiness is critical.

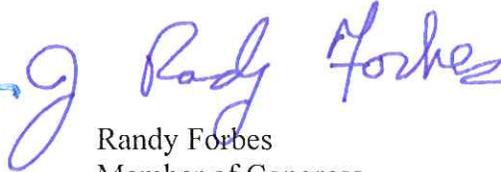
We ask that the GAO please proceed to investigate and prepare reports that respond to these points in a timely manner in order to facilitate Congressional hearings and other actions. Thank you for your consideration.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



Randy Forbes
Member of Congress



Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress