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Invitation to Sign Letter to President Biden Urging Renewal of US-China Protocol on Scientific and Technological Cooperation

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

August 21, 2023

Dear Mr. President and Members of the National Security Council:

We the undersigned are scientists and scholars at numerous U.S. universities. We are writing to express our strong support for the renewal of the United States-China Protocol on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. This agreement has been of enormous benefit to the United States.

We acknowledge that there are legitimate national security concerns that require the United States, at times, to limit access to certain research and information. However, as outlined in National Security Decision Directive 189, such information should be classified. Fundamental research at U.S. institutions of higher learning, the results of which are intended to be openly published, should not be classified in accord with NSDD 189. The benefits to the United States and to the world of robust and open research collaboration and exchanges of information and people between the United States and China has been and continues to be enormous -- every effort should be made to maintain such exchanges. We can attest that cutting off ties with China would directly and negatively impact our own research, the work of our immediate colleagues, and/or the educational mission of our universities. We are prepared to advocate for this position publicly and vocally.

We very much hope that renewal of the United States-China Protocol on Scientific and Technical Cooperation is imminent as expiration of the Protocol approaches. The Protocol has provided a valuable framework for dialogue and development of specific agreements regarding scientific and technological cooperation and exchanges between the United States and China including people-to-people connections and educational exchanges that have benefited the United States. The United States should renew the Protocol, not because China wants to, but rather because it is in the best interests of the United States.

Respectfully yours,



Steven Kivelson
Prabu Goel Family Professor of Physics
Stanford University



Peter F. Michelson
Luke Blossom Professor, School of Humanities & Sciences
Professor of Physics
Stanford University

on behalf of the following concerned faculty members and scholars at U.S. institutions of higher learning who have endorsed this letter (names listed on following pages)

Stanford University Professors **Steven Kivelson** and **Peter F. Michelson** issued the following letter calling for faculty members and scholars at U.S. institutions of higher learning to co-sign a letter to President **Joe Biden** to renew the US-China Protocol on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

- **Read the letter:** <https://bit.ly/3KP6wXG>
- **Sign on to the letter:** <https://bit.ly/3qGWC3r>
- **WHEN: Before Noon PDT on Thursday, August 24**
- **Please forward to other members of the university community!**

Dear Colleagues,

The **US-China Protocol on Scientific and Technological Cooperation** is due for renewal by August 27; in less than 6 days. The decision on whether the U.S. will pursue renewal of the Protocol will be made by the White House, mostly likely with discussion led by the National Security Council of the United States. This agreement has been the basis of scientific engagement between the US and China since it was first signed in 1979 and renewed approximately every five years thereafter. For an informative overview of the Protocol and a discussion of the case for renewing it have a look at a recent [essay](#) by Deborah Seligsohn, Senior Associate (non-resident) of CSIS. See also recent [coverage](#) in the WSJ and in [Reuters](#).

If the Protocol is not renewed by the United States - which seems plausible at present moment - it is likely to have significant negative impact on ongoing and future scientific exchanges between the US and China. We believe that the multiple benefits of robust scientific exchange vastly outweigh any security issues that accompany such openness. Furthermore, the Protocol does not commit the US to any specific activities but provides a framework for discussion and developing specific agreements. The US should not slam the door.

If you agree with us, please consider signing an open letter to the President of the United States and the members of the National Security Council expressing support for renewing this agreement. This can be done by clicking on this [link](#) and following the instructions. You can also read the letter there. Please also consider forwarding this email to other members of the university community who you think might likewise be willing to sign. If you plan to sign, please do so before Noon PDT on Thursday, August 24.

Sincerely,

Steven Kivelson and Peter Michelson

Appeal and Motion Filed in Florida Lawsuit Against Discriminatory Alien Land Law

<p style="font-size: small;">Case 4:23-cv-00208-AW-MAF Document 70 Filed 08/21/23 Page 1 of 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA TALLAHASSEE DIVISION</p> <p>YIFAN SHEN, <i>et al.</i>, Plaintiffs,</p> <p>v.</p> <p>WILTON SIMPSON, in his official capacity as Commissioner of Agriculture for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, <i>et al.</i>, Defendants.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Case No. 4:23-cv-208-AW-MAF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLAINTIFFS' NOTICE OF APPEAL</p>	<p style="font-size: small;">Case 4:23-cv-00208-AW-MAF Document 71 Filed 08/21/23 Page 1 of 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA TALLAHASSEE DIVISION</p> <p>YIFAN SHEN, <i>et al.</i>, Plaintiffs,</p> <p>v.</p> <p>WILTON SIMPSON, in his official capacity as Commissioner of Agriculture for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, <i>et al.</i>, Defendants.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Case No. 4:23-cv-208-AW-MAF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLAINTIFFS' EMERGENCY MOTION FOR INJUNCTION PENDING APPEAL</p>
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On August 21, 2023, attorneys for the plaintiffs in the Florida lawsuit against Senate Bill (SB) 264 filed an appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit from the Order, entered on August 17, 2023, ECF No. 69, denying Plaintiffs' Emergency Motion for a Preliminary Injunction. Read the appeal: <https://bit.ly/44eexMl>

Also on August 21, 2023, attorneys for the plaintiffs in the Florida lawsuit for the Florida District Court to issue an injunction pending appeal in this matter. Plaintiffs request a decision by Thursday, August 24, 2023. Read the motion: <https://bit.ly/3KPkR6h>

Washington Post Reports on Alien Land Bills



On August 21, 2023, the *Washington Post* published two articles on alien land bills:

- 2023/08/21 *Washington Post*: State lawmakers move to ban Chinese land ownership. <https://wapo.st/45DMG9S>

- 2023/08/21 *Washington Post*: Laws banning Chinese from buying property dredge up old history. <https://wapo.st/45BdyHA>

According to these comprehensive reports, in Washington, the White House and federal lawmakers are pursuing ways to constrain Chinese-owned businesses like TikTok amid a bipartisan push to limit China's reach.

Now state legislators have embraced a novel, locally focused tactic aimed at China's domestic investments: restrictions on Chinese land ownership.

Lawmakers in 33 states have introduced 81 bills this year that would prohibit the Chinese government, some China-based businesses and many Chinese citizens from buying agricultural land or property near military bases, according to a *Washington Post* analysis of data compiled by Asian Pacific American (APA) Justice, an advocacy group. A dozen of the bills are now law in states such as Alabama, Idaho and Virginia.

Asian American advocacy groups and legislators have raised alarm that the new bills go beyond national security concerns and could encourage discrimination against Chinese Americans at a time of rising hate crimes — harking back to a time when they were openly barred from owning property.

"There is ignorance out there that causes people to think that because you are Chinese you are part of the Chinese government," said former Texas state representative **Martha Wong**, a Republican.

While most bills also ban land ownership tied to other "foreign adversaries," including Russia, Iran and North Korea, lawmakers' rhetoric has focused almost exclusively on China — and some states have gone even further than targeting government entities. A Florida law also restricts land purchases by Chinese citizens with non-tourist visas.

Critics say the movement is also being fueled by growing anti-Asian sentiment in the United States, evidenced by a rise in hate crimes that became particularly acute during the coronavirus pandemic.

"President Trump calling covid-19 the China virus and kung flu laid the groundwork for people to blame China for their own misfortunes," said Rep. **Judy Chu** (D-Calif.), who is Chinese American and has introduced a bill to combat the landownership restrictions. "Now we see this anti-China fever taking a different route, with politicians trying to gain political points by being more anti-China than the next person."

Wong, 84, testified against several Texas bills by describing how she lived for years as a child in her family's grocery storage room because no one would rent or sell a home to her Chinese American father. "We do not want backward movement to the type of discrimination my father faced," she said.

The push in states to limit Chinese ownership has extended to Congress, where at least 11 bills aiming to restrict land buys by Chinese businesses and citizens have been introduced over the past three years. None has passed, but several are still pending, and the language from one bill was recently inserted into the National Defense Authorization Act, which passed the Senate last

month.

Some experts say national security concerns are inflated because China and Chinese investors own a fraction of U.S. agricultural lands. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) report shows Chinese investors own about 1 percent of American agricultural land, and only about 0.03 percent of that is farmland. The rest are agriculturally zoned properties that include rural roads, homesteads and non-farm-related buildings.

“For purposes of food security, blocking Chinese or other foreign investors, that argument doesn’t hold a lot of water,” said **Joe Glauber**, USDA’s chief economist from 2008 to 2014 and now a senior researcher at the International Food Policy Research Institute. “We are already exporting a large portion of what we produce, so it is not a question of needing to keep this stuff at home. As far as farmland is concerned, what China owns is literally a drop in the bucket.”

The bills face an uncertain legal future. The American Civil Liberties Union has challenged the constitutionality of the Florida law, making some of the same arguments that caused several state supreme courts to strike down broad bans on land ownership by foreign citizens of Asian countries decades ago, including a pivotal California Supreme Court decision in 1952.

“Banning people from buying a house based on where they are from is blatantly unconstitutional,” said **Ashley Gorski**, a lead attorney in the ACLU case against the state of Florida. “Everyone in the United States is entitled to equal protection under the constitution, including citizens of other countries.”

“We expect the political rhetoric on this to escalate and also expect more legislation to be introduced and passed,” said **John C. Yang**, president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice, which has been fighting the bills. “Even state legislators want to appear to be tough on China right now, and they are grasping for things that they can control in their own state legislatures to show that they are being tough.”

For weeks this summer, South Florida real estate agent **Josie Wang** says she’s rushed to close property deals for many of her clients. The sales anxiety wasn’t sparked by the usual forces — high interest rates and low inventory.

Instead, she was worried that her Chinese clients would soon face new hurdles to buying property in the United States. If the deals weren’t closed quickly, she warned them, they may need to consult an attorney before moving forward.

Over the last few months, Montana, Virginia, and North Dakota have all passed legislation restricting the ability of Chinese nationals to buy property. Georgia, Iowa and Kansas, among others, are considering similar legislation.

In Florida, which has passed one of the strictest versions of the law, Chinese nationals can’t buy property within 10 miles of any military bases — the state has 21 of them — or critical infrastructure such as airports. Under the law, which is being challenged in court, those who sell property to Chinese immigrants could face stiff penalties, including a \$1,000 fine and up to one year in prison.

Asked about the concerns among some people in the Asian community, **Jeremy Redfern**, Florida Governor **Ron DeSantis**'s spokesman, didn't directly respond, writing in an email, "There is no reasonable way of responding to unnamed 'Asian Americans in Florida.'"

For some Chinese nationals and Chinese Americans the new laws have been a hurtful reminder of anti-Asian laws that banned them from immigrating to the United States or buying agriculture property in the country for decades.

"This is not right, we live in the 21st Century," said **Winnie Tang**, who moved to the United States from China 45 years ago and lives in Miami. The laws, she says, remind her of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 — a 10-year ban on Chinese laborers immigrating to the United States. "We are being singled out to be discriminated against by other people."

"My face is Chinese," Tang said. "So that means in the future, if I want to buy any property they could use this law to force me to show ID to prove I'm a citizen and not related to the Chinese government ... This law gives people the right to discriminate against me openly."

Critics have called such laws discriminatory and the Department of Justice has said about the Florida version of the law: "These unlawful provisions will cause serious harm to people simply because of their national origin, contravene federal civil rights laws, undermine constitutional rights, and will not advance the State's purported goal of increasing public safety."

Legislation in Texas, which aimed to ban all property ownership by Chinese citizens, died in the House of Representatives after massive protest from the Asian American community. "I don't think the Republicans fully appreciated how unbelievably angry the Asian community was," Democratic state Rep. **Gene Wu**, who represents a heavily Chinese district in Houston, said.

Some Asian Americans say they have experienced more hate crimes since the pandemic began.

"This has always been the singular, major discrimination against all Asian Americans," Wu said. "That Asian Americans are never truly American enough, that Asian Americans are always just a hair's breadth away from betraying the country and doing whatever their home country tells them to."

The United States has taken drastic measures against Asian Americans before, said **Mae Ngai**, a professor of Asian American Studies at Columbia University, noting that during World War II, more than 100,000 people of Japanese descent were forced into camps after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

"This is where it leads. It leads to putting so-called enemy aliens in concentration camps. I don't think it's a ridiculous proposition," Ngai said. "We should be very, very concerned."

APA Justice tracks the alien land bills at <https://www.apajustice.org/alien-land-bills.html>, including a map and a list of state bills at <https://bit.ly/43oJ0YI>

See You at "The March on Washington" on August 26, 2023



On August 26, 2023, a 2023 March on Washington will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the historic March on Washington, organized by Dr. **Martin Luther King Jr.** and other civil rights leaders in 1963, to continue the fight for democracy, social justice and civil rights. Join the King family at the Lincoln Memorial to honor the past, acknowledge the present and march toward a future of progress and equality.

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities will join the March to continue the landmark moment in the struggle against racial profiling and hate. Help to distribute the Yellow Whistles to amplify our voice. Please wear yellow to symbolize our struggle for justice and hope. Show our support of peoples of color and conscience.

UCA: 纪念“我有一个梦想”演讲 60周年. UCA 诚挚邀请您参加 8月26日在林肯纪念堂举办的一场特殊活动, 以纪念并见证美国历史的重要时刻。这是一个值得我们每个人珍视的机会, 让我们

一同回顾并向前看，思考过去的成就、面对现在的挑战、展望未来的希望。

林肯纪念堂作为美国历史的见证者，见证了种族平等、人权尊重和社会进步的重要进程。60年前，马丁·路德·金（Martin Luther King Jr.）在这里发表了那篇永载史册的“我有一个梦想”演讲，为美国的平等与正义倡导奠定了基石，成为了社会变革的象征。

在这个特殊的日子，我们将一同回望过去，追忆那些勇敢的先驱者们为种族平等而奋斗的历程，从60年前的种种挑战到今天我们所面临的机遇与挑战。

我们希望通过这次活动，传承那份坚韧和勇气，汲取历史的智慧，为我们未来的努力指明方向。

- 2023/08/21 Dragon Eagle TV: [8月26日让我们相聚林肯纪念堂穿越60年见证美国历史](#) (video 0:39)

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