

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

In addition, soon after the balloon became public knowledge, Dr. Kahl leaked previously classified information to the press about prior Chinese surveillance balloons during the Trump administration. It remains unclear whether this leak was cleared internally through the proper channels. Either way, it was a brazen attempt to shift blame. Most egregiously, Dr. Kahl omitted a key detail in his distribution of this sensitive information to the press – the prior Chinese balloons were only discovered much later. The Trump administration did not have an opportunity to respond at the time.


We sincerely hope you will hold Dr. Kahl accountable for his politicization of previously classified material. This type of behavior is the reason every Senate Republican voted against Dr. Kahl's nomination in 2021.

Although this correspondence is focused primarily on the Chinese HAB, we are equally disappointed with the Department's lack of transparency when it comes to the unprecedented shoot down of three UAP over Alaska, Northern Canada, and Lake Huron. We are aware NORAD was actively tracking UAP over Northern Alaska as early as February 1 prior to the Department updating radar parameters. We were never informed about the Department scrambling fighters to Northern Alaska to address UAP observed on February 1. Despite sixth generation sensor suites supported by ISR, U2, and AWACS, the Committees have seen zero data and received few details about the UAP shoot downs.

In closing, we await your response to the questions that we sent on February 8. It is imperative for Congress to understand why this Chinese surveillance balloon was not stopped sooner so we can help the Department of Defense and the intelligence community better protect our airspace. Please let us know as soon as possible when we can expect to receive these responses.

We once again thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services



Marco Rubio
Vice Chairman
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence