

Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT-03) and Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ-09)
Statement for the Record
United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Hearing on “Examining Outbound Investment”
September 29, 2022

Thank you, Chairman Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Ranking Member Pat Toomey (R-PA) for holding this important hearing on the issue of examining outbound investment. We wish to thank Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) and John Cornyn (R-TX) for co-leading the Senate version of the National Critical Capabilities Defense Act (NCCDA) and our House co-leads Representatives Victoria Spartz (R-IN-05) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01).

In a July hearing before this committee, Chairman Brown, you committed to working with your colleagues to address this issue in a vehicle separate from the CHIPS package, which has now been signed into law.¹ We appreciate this step to honor that commitment by holding this hearing today.

We are House champions of the NCCDA. Our legislation would create a new trade tool that brings a whole-of-government response to review a tailored set of outbound investments in specific sectors. This screening process for outbound investments and the offshoring of critical capacities and supply chains would ensure that the United States can quickly detect and address supply chain vulnerabilities and prevent the offshoring of critical production capacity and intellectual property to our foreign adversaries like the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and the Russian Federation.

As you may know, our bill was included as part of the House-passed America COMPETES Act and is under discussion by conferees in the conference committee. The common-sense proposal has strong bipartisan and bicameral support and was recommended as part of the most recent unanimously approved report of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

As champions for American workers, we hope you would agree that we must do more to fix our frayed supply chains and empower our government with the authorities to act to address these problems. We cannot be weak-kneed when it comes to standing up to our adversaries, starting with Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin. We must take all necessary steps to protect the United States supply chain and our national security from foreign adversaries. While we are encouraged by support from the Biden Administration on this issue and have encouraged executive action, we continue to believe that statutory provisions, like the NCCDA, are essential to safeguard our Nation’s critical capabilities, national security, and American workers. We seek your support for our efforts and continued partnership to these ends.

Thank you for your attention to our comments. We look forward to working together with Members of this committee, and bicameral colleagues on both sides of the aisle to enact an outbound investment review mechanism in the 117th Congress.

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHOHGfRfLxg>