

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 3, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bessent  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Jamieson Greer  
United States Trade Representative  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17th St., NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Secretary Bessent and Ambassador Greer,

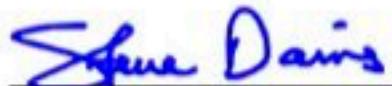
We write to draw your attention to the growing risks associated with the massive volumes of illicit Chinese e-cigarettes flooding into the United States. We fully support President Trump's aggressive, multi-agency enforcement actions taken to confront this pressing threat as addressing illegal activity of this magnitude and consequence requires a comprehensive strategy and response. Accordingly, we respectfully urge the Treasury Department and the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to take appropriate action within their respective authorities.

The Chinese Communist Party, through China's State Tobacco Monopoly Administration (STMA), exports hundreds of millions of illegal e-cigarettes to the United States each year, flooding the domestic market, and generating billions of dollars in revenue. The proceeds generated by STMA may be helping to fund military or technological initiatives designed to undermine American economic and strategic interests. Federal agencies have also linked Chinese manufacturers to Mexican cartels and money laundering operations. Earlier this year, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) reported that illicit Chinese e-cigarettes are being used as part of a trade-based money laundering scheme to move fentanyl proceeds on behalf of Mexican cartels.

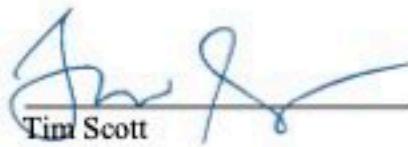
The Department of Justice and Drug Enforcement Agency have also connected the proliferation of e-cigarettes smuggled into the United States to retailers operated by foreign nationals near schools and military installations. Additionally, highly sophisticated "smart vapes," with the ability to connect to user's cellphones, have become commonplace. These devices have the capacity to initiate data breaches or malware infections and can also access and collect sensitive user data. Given the interconnected relationship between Chinese industry and state intelligence services, the targeting of U.S. military personnel with these devices raises profound national security concerns.

Given the scale and severity of this threat, we urge the Treasury Department and USTR to use their respective enforcement and diplomatic authorities to combat illegal Chinese e-cigarettes. Whether tackling money laundering operations via FinCEN or negotiating directly with Chinese leaders to prevent future shipments of illegal e-cigarettes, your leadership is necessary to help curtail this growing security risk. We appreciate your consideration and are ready to assist.

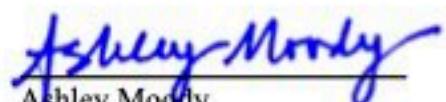
Sincerely,



Steve Daines  
United States Senator



Tim Scott  
United States Senator



Ashley Moody  
United States Senator



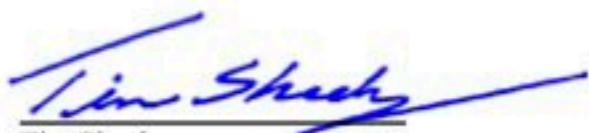
Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



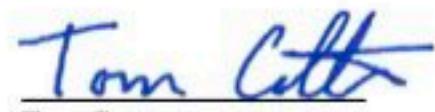
Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator



Ted Budd  
United States Senator



Tim Sheehy  
United States Senator



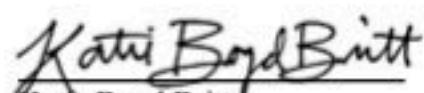
Tom Cotton  
United States Senator



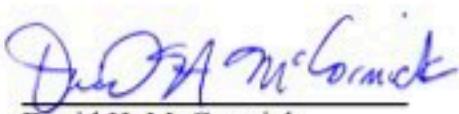
Tommy Tuberville  
United States Senator



Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator



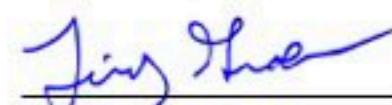
Katie Boyd Britt  
United States Senator



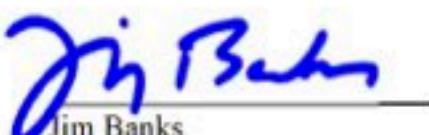
David H. McCormick  
United States Senator



Todd Young  
United States Senator



Lindsay O. Graham  
United States Senator



Jim Banks  
United States Senator



Eric S. Schmitt  
United States Senator