

THE WICKER REPORT
By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Wicker: China Should Face Consequences for Global Outbreak
Chinese Communist Party’s Lies and Deception Allowed COVID-19 to Spread

When the first cases of COVID-19 emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan last December, local doctors tried to sound the alarm. Unfortunately, they were silenced by Chinese government officials who were more interested in saving face than taking responsibility for the outbreak. One of the doctors, Li Wenliang, was reprimanded by local police and ordered to stop “spreading rumors.” He and his colleagues were denounced on state-run television. Weeks later, Dr. Li died of the virus at age 34.

Dr. Li’s inner circle was not alone in being suppressed. In early January, Chinese scientists received a gag order from their government ordering them to destroy samples of the virus. The government began censoring news of the virus online and delayed entrance of a group of international health officials. There is also strong evidence they tried to influence early de-

cision-making by the World Health Organization. But perhaps worst of all, China allowed international flights to continue from Wuhan even as travel within China was being shut down. This raises questions as to why China would knowingly put the world’s health at risk.

Moving Our Drug Supply Chain

To this day, the Chinese Communist Party has not come clean about how the virus began and why it was allowed to spread. They continue to stonewall, expecting the world to forget and move on. But given the global need to prevent future outbreaks, senators are working to make sure the world gets answers and to see that the Chinese government is held accountable.

I recently joined several colleagues in introducing the COVID-19 Accountability Act. This legislation would give the President the power to sanction China if its government fails to account for the events that led to the pandemic. It calls for China to cooperate with international investigations, close down all wet markets, and release all pro-democracy advocates who have been detained in

Hong Kong. It would also lay the groundwork for moving our drug supply chain away from China.

Confronting Chinese Security Threats

The corruption and deception demonstrated by the ruling Communist Party is a sobering reminder of the dangers should China become the world’s dominant power. Its military buildup in the Pacific is particularly troubling. I am committed to ensuring our military remains strong enough to prevent China from dominating other countries in the Pacific region.

We also need to root out sources of Chinese espionage at home. Over the past decade, China has sent hundreds of researchers here to study and work on engineering projects. Some of those researchers have stolen our intellectual property and sent back sensitive material to China. To address this glaring security threat, I included language in a law last year requiring the U.S. government to identify the individuals and institutions who intend to spy on us for China.

In a blow to Beijing’s influence, President Trump recently signed into law legislation I wrote aimed at

SBA opens Economic Injury Disaster Loans to U.S. agricultural businesses impacted by COVID-19 pandemic

Press Release

U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Jovita Carranza announced that agricultural businesses are now eligible for SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and EIDL Advance programs. SBA’s EIDL online portal reopened

as a result of funding authorized by Congress through the Paycheck Protection Program and Healthcare Enhancement Act. The legislation, signed into law by the President one week ago, provided additional funding for farmers and ranchers and certain other agricultural businesses affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

“For more than 30 years, SBA has been prohibited by law from providing disaster assistance to agricultural businesses; however, as a result of the unprecedented legislation enacted by President Trump, American farmers, ranchers and other agricultural businesses will now have access to emergency working capital,” said Administrator Carranza. “These low-interest, long-term loans will help keep agricultural businesses viable while bringing stability to the nation’s vitally important food supply chains.”

Agricultural businesses include businesses engaged in

the legal production of food and fiber, ranching, and raising of livestock, aquaculture, and all other farming and agricultural related industries (as defined by section 18(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 647(b)). Eligible agricultural businesses must have 500 or fewer employees.

The SBA will begin accepting new EIDL applications on a limited basis only, in order to provide unprecedented relief to U.S. agricultural businesses. For agricultural businesses that submitted an EIDL loan application through the streamlined application portal prior to the legislative change, SBA will move forward and process these applications without the need for re-applying. All other EIDL loan applications that were submitted before the portal stopped accepting new applications on April 15 will be processed on a first-in, first-out basis.

For more information, please visit: www.sba.gov/disaster.



Nikki Merchant
Trent Boutwell
June 26

Eryca Edwards
Andrew Gilmore
August 8



Court Square 834-2721 Lexington



Bridal Registry
Laura Beth Kolb
Taylor Burrell
August 1



Howell & Heggie Drug Co.
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Durant
662-653-6441

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TITLE PLUS

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(across from Double Quick)
662-834-9045

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Title Loans up to \$2,500.00

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1) Oversized
6) Long drink
10) Harvest
14) In no time ____ (instantly)
15) King James "you"
16) Edible corm
17) What a prom king must be
20) Send out
21) Sleuth, in slang
22) Twist facts
23) Uses a throne
24) Taunt
28) Screenwriter's output
30) Early textbook
32) Nuclear energy producer
35) It comes in a bag, often
36) Music genre
- 40) ____-Magnon
41) Surpass in auctioneering
42) Rat film
45) Dual-purpose couch
49) Old Western Union service
50) Having similar qualities
52) Request to Sajak
53) Parting word
56) With the bow, to violinists
57) What a sudden idea may do
61) Program of variety acts
62) Quiz or exam
63) Riders after rustlers
64) Adam and Eve's first home
65) Roughly
66) Legends

DOWN

- 1) Where flag pins can be affixed
2) Like some clocks
3) Long, slender sword
4) Oversupply
5) Right-angle bend
6) Roosters do it
7) Fancies
8) They're never free of charge
9) Pour out copiously
10) Repair a shoe
11) Tokyo, once
12) Bustle
13) Smoke-filled room habitue
18) Troublemaker
19) Animal shelter
23) Freelancer's detail
25) Treble clef singer
26) Slowly permeate
27) Baseball stat
29) Umbrage
30) Common deliveries?
31) Prayer bench
33) Gunk
34) Storytime listener
36) A Great Lake
37) Take it really easy
38) Ones sharing a tartan
39) Tissue box word
40) 100 lbs. in the U.S.
43) Roman army division
44) Impulse carrier
46) Having the least coverage
47) Turn into bills and/or coins
48) Digital watch components
50) Immeasurably vast pit
51) Central Honshu city
54) Sarge's pooch
55) Lazybones's opposite
56) Shout at sea
57) "The Raven" author
58) Outdated
59) Slapstick missile
60) Tachometer's meas.

GOETH THE WEASEL II

By Tim Burr

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