

**RANKING MINORITY MEMBER**  
AGING  
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

**COMMITTEE MEMBER**  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
DISABILITIES  
HEALTH  
INSURANCE



**SENATOR**  
**JACOB C. ASHBY**  
43<sup>RD</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

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Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Senate Majority Leader  
Capitol Building, Room 330  
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Robert Ort  
Senate Minority Leader  
Capitol Building, Room 315  
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Carl Heastie  
New York State Assembly Speaker  
Legislative Office Building, Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. William Barclay  
New York State Assembly Minority Leader  
Legislative Office Building, Room 933  
Albany NY, 12248

Legislative Leaders,

We are writing today to urge you to impanel a bipartisan commission to audit, investigate and remedy the Executive Chamber's hiring practices, security protocols and administrative procedures following the unsealing of the Eastern District of New York's indictment detailing their charges against Linda Sun, Gov. Hochul's former Deputy Chief of Staff. As you know, the federal government's exhaustive, credible charges paint a shocking picture of foreign espionage, corruption, and catastrophic security failure.

Last week, it was unthinkable that a Chinese Communist Party agent could infiltrate the highest levels of our state government. Now, it's reality. Together, we can either choose to live up to our oaths of office and treat this national security breach with the seriousness it requires or we can sit on the sidelines and hope that the same protocols we just watched fail on the world stage magically start to work.

There is no indication that the governor accepts the gravity of this situation nor the need for sweeping action. We certainly have not heard her detail any plans for an audit by the state's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. We haven't heard her announce an investigation by any trusted independent entity, and we haven't heard her seek help from the federal government. The administration's inaction makes the Legislature's co-equal role in our state's security and well-being even more prominent. Our solutions-oriented commission should be prepared to:


- Identify and solve the deficiencies in the executive's hiring process that would allow a Chinese Communist Party spy to infiltrate the highest levels of New York State government.
- Audit the state's national security protocols and their resiliency to foreign interference.

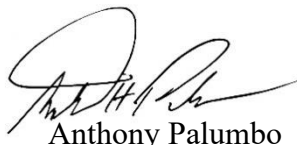
- Analyze the chain-of-command processes that allowed the governor's signature to be affixed to official documents by a foreign agent without appropriate authorization.
- Investigate why it took so many years and a federal investigation for the accused's flagrant, illegal behavior to attract the notice of any internal watchdogs or flag any security mechanisms.

It is our recommendation that each of you co-chair this commission to dispel the question of political motivation and to draw on the broad, diverse capabilities across the legislature's full membership. The commission should collaborate with outside experts, including national and cybersecurity professionals, federal law enforcement and intelligence officials, leaders in human resources, and other appropriate personnel. It must possess subpoena power.

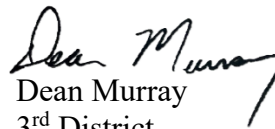
We look forward to hearing back from you on this urgent matter of national security.


Gratefully,


  
Jake Ashby  
43<sup>rd</sup> District


  
Anthony Palumbo  
1<sup>st</sup> District


  
Mario Mattera  
2<sup>nd</sup> District

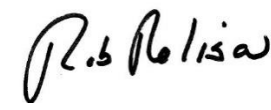
  
Dean Murray  
3<sup>rd</sup> District

  
Steve Rhoads  
5<sup>th</sup> District

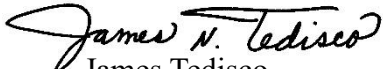
  
Jack Martins  
7<sup>th</sup> District

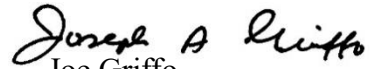
  
Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick  
9<sup>th</sup> District


  
Bill Weber  
38<sup>th</sup> District

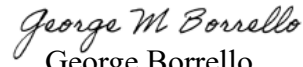
  
Rob Rolison  
39<sup>th</sup> District

  
Dan Stec  
45<sup>th</sup> District

  
James Tedisco  
44<sup>th</sup> District

  
Joe Griffo  
53<sup>rd</sup> District

  
Pam Helming  
54<sup>th</sup> District

  
George Borrello  
57<sup>th</sup> District