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Contact: press@secureourstates.org

Secure Our States Coalition Launches to Combat China's Subnational Threat

Detroit, Michigan— The Secure Our States Coalition (SOS) officially launched today to confront the People's Republic of China's (PRC) and Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) expanding influence in America's states, cities, and communities where Beijing has targeted local economies, land use, education, and infrastructure to advance its strategic interests.

Led by President Donald Trump's former U.S. Ambassador to Fiji Joseph Cella, founder of the Michigan–China Economic and Security Review Group, the Coalition operates as 501(c)(4) with an affiliated 501(c)(3) entity, combining education and research with advocacy, to equip state and local leaders, activists, business leaders, and policymakers with the tools to identify, expose, and counter China's influence operations that threaten U.S. national and economic security.

"There is a bipartisan consensus that China represents the most serious long-term threat to U.S. national security," said Cella. "But too often, Beijing's influence campaign is playing out below the federal level, where communities lack the resources to push back. We've seen this play out in Michigan, where lawmakers and businesses have taken a China-first approach, threatening our national and economic security. Secure Our States exists to give communities the tools, information, and support they need to stop Beijing in its tracks and protect all Americans."

The Coalition focuses on four core areas: citizen education, grassroots mobilization, policy engagement, and legislative support, equipping communities and lawmakers with the tools to identify, expose, and counter CCP-linked influence at the state and local level.

Coinciding with the launch, Secure Our States Coalition released a [new video](#) highlighting the risks posed by China's attempts to infiltrate our consumer auto market. Recently, Ambassador Joseph Cella supported [efforts](#) in the Michigan Legislature, led by Rep. Luke Meerman, to ban the sale of vehicles from hostile foreign countries. This follows relentless efforts to block the establishment of the Gotion battery plant in Big Rapids and CATL-linked Ford plant in Marshall.

SOS draws on the experience of former ambassadors, members of Congress, retired members of the military, and senior national security officials to provide nonpartisan, fact-based analysis and on-the-ground support to communities facing PRC-backed investments, land acquisitions near sensitive sites, and academic and economic partnerships that raise serious national security concerns.

For more information, visit www.secureourstates.org or contact press@secureourstates.org.

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