

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2024

David Zaslav
Chief Executive Officer
Warner Bros. Discovery
230 Park Avenue South
New York, NY, 10003

Dear Mr. Zaslav,

We write regarding reports that the Discovery Channel (“Discovery”), a cable television channel owned by Warner Bros. Discovery, has entered into a partnership with Chinese state media to produce a documentary series whitewashing the Chinese Communist Party (“CCP”)’s genocide against Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (“Xinjiang”).

As you are aware, two consecutive U.S. presidential administrations have affirmed that the People’s Republic of China (PRC) is engaged in a genocide in Xinjiang. The PRC has imprisoned over one million Uyghurs in concentration camps, subjugated tens of thousands more to carry out slave labor, and sterilized and forced untold numbers of women in the region to have abortions.

Yet that is far from what the series, titled “World’s Ultimate Frontier,” portrays. The depiction, whose trailer bills Discovery as a co-producer, instead highlights how well the CCP’s policies worked to rid the “frontier” of its inhabitants. The trailer for the first installment goes so far as to include scenes purporting to show how much the people of Xinjiang’s lives have improved in recent years, as a direct result of the CCP’s genocidal policies.

This is hardly the first attempt by Chinese state-owned media agencies to deflect international condemnations of the CCP’s human rights abuses of religious and ethnic groups within Xinjiang. PRC efforts to spread lies about the genocide on social media are well documented. In 2020, CGTN even attacked CNN, a different subsidiary of Warner Bros. Discovery, for “making fake news about Xinjiang.” Now, your company has seemingly partnered with CGTN in a series praising the results of their decade-long effort to strip Uyghurs of their freedom, religion, homeland, and way of life.

We find it deeply disturbing and unacceptable that Discovery, an American media company which is most known for documentary filmmaking – a genre ostensibly intended to help viewers understand the truth – is co-producing such an obvious work of propaganda on the part of a totalitarian, adversary regime. This is doubly unacceptable when that propaganda is

whitewashing obvious crimes against humanity. To that end, we request answers to the following questions by March 1, 2024:

- 1) Can you confirm the Discovery Channel has helped produce the CGTN documentary series, “World’s Ultimate Frontier?”
- 2) If yes, what exactly does this partnership entail? Will this partnership result in other collaborations or co-productions with CGTN or other Chinese state-owned or -controlled media agencies?
- 3) Why did Discovery decide to partner with CGTN on this specific documentary series about Xinjiang?
- 4) Does Warner Bros. Discovery agree with the State Department’s conclusion under the last two administrations that the PRC’s actions in Xinjiang constitute a genocide?
- 5) While working on “World’s Ultimate Frontier” or other programs, has Discovery met with any advocacy groups representing victims of the genocide in Xinjiang, such as the Uyghur Human Rights Project?
- 6) In your opinion, does this partnership do anything to damage the credibility of the Discovery Channel?
- 7) Will you commit to suspending this partnership and all other future partnerships with CGTN and other Chinese state-owned or -controlled media outlets, particularly where such partnerships have the appearance of Discovery endorsing CCP policy and echoing Party propaganda?


If you wish for Discovery to maintain any semblance of credibility, we urge you to suspend this partnership with CGTN immediately and to abstain from entering into any similar partnership with any other agent of CCP influence.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



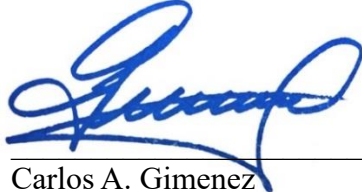
Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Mike Waltz
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress