

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement to North Dakota Legislators from Joan Sammon

As I begin, I would like to thank Chairman Beltz and members of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee for permitting me to provide insights and information that may provide valuable insight as you consider the legislative measures outlined in Senate Bill 2026.

I want to further acknowledge my appreciation to Congresswoman Olson for her interest in better understanding the threats foreign adversaries represent to our country, and finally, Ag Commissioner, Doug Goehring for his seemingly boundless knowledge and invaluable insights specific to North Dakota's agricultural and energy-producing prowess and their national security significance.

My name is Joan Sammon. I am delighted to be speaking to you today. I called Williston home for many years as I helped the early generations of Bakken oil and gas operators and service providers solve an array of business challenges. While living in North Dakota, I learned much from my colleagues in the energy sector and made lifelong friendships.

I am the Founder of OG-360, a boutique business advisory firm, and more presciently, the Founder of a private intelligence company with expertise in China.---Led by former intelligence community analysts and operators whose expertise was honed by their decades working in three-letter agencies (Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the National Security Agency (NSA)). Our team also includes experts from units within the US

Special Operations Command, including Special Forces (Rangers and Green Berets), and other veteran intelligence and technology experts with advanced expertise and understanding specific to the threat posed by China.

My path to understanding the threat of China as a foreign adversary has been unconventional. In the face of the COVID-19 attack and having previously worked in the pharmaceutical industry, it was immediately apparent that there was discontinuity in the response to and messaging around the virus's origins. China obfuscated, and the World Health Organization (WHO) feigned incompetence. Censorship was pervasive, and misinformation was an obvious manipulation. Little did most know at that time --- but the world was experiencing the results of a biological attack using a pathogen that, according to sources, is one of 29 engineered viruses that currently make up China's biological warfare arsenal. Beginning with the initial release and continuing through China's three-year lockdown, our understanding evolved to what is now understood: it was all part of China's war for global dominance that you will come to understand as "Unrestricted Warfare."

My knowledge of the geo-political threat of China, stridently demonstrated during COVID led me to meeting with a WHO virologist from the WHO H-5 reference laboratory at the University of Hong Kong. The CCP had tried to kill her to prevent her from revealing the elements of the virus that had been manipulated. Fleeing Hong Kong in April 2020, she arrived in the U.S. and was met by the FBI, DHS and others from the intelligence community and law enforcement assets. After a lengthy discussion and interview, they

deemed her credible and permitted her entry into the country, and escorted her to her final destination on the east coast.

In 2021, I began the process of introducing her and other Chinese ex-pats with knowledge of “Unrestricted Warfare” tactics to Members of the United States Congress and/or their staff so that Members could come to understand COVID as part of China’s “Unrestricted Warfare” strategy. I knew that once they understood the dynamics of Unrestricted Warfare, they would be better equipped to develop policies that matched the complex threat China represents.

Since then, the ex-pats have been instrumental in articulating the nature of China’s tactics and their ultimate strategic objective. Chinese agents continue to hunt them inside our country in defiance of all international law, demonstrating the impact of their work. It has been so decisive that as of this moment, China’s Ministry of State Security (MSS) has the virologist and some of her colleagues on a ‘kill list.’ They all live in hiding as they continue to warn America of this ominous threat.

Because I spent the early years of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) working with combat veterans contending with the then ill-understood and underfunded consequence of combat-related post-traumatic stress, I was able to establish a network of experienced combat operators that understood the consequence of not knowing one’s enemy. This was further reinforced during training I attended in Israel, which sought to train first responders and the military in the counter-terrorism tactics Israel had perfected after decades of threats within their own country during the first and

second Intifadas. October 7 was an unfortunate reminder of the need to continually adapt to the evolution of one's enemies. After twenty years focused on the Islamist threat, we must now rapidly adapt to the newly recognized enemy China represents.

I want to underscore today that while there are many foreign adversaries including Iran and Russia, my comments today largely, though not exclusively, pertain to China. The purpose of this statement is to provide insight into how the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP's) influence and ambitions are undermining America through what China historically referred to as the "People's War," but that in contemporary times has become known as "Unrestricted Warfare."

As is well documented, China has been working for decades to build its economic and military capacity in an effort to achieve its stated objective of global dominance by 2035. In only 30 years, China has gone from being a potential threat to America to being an imminent threat—politically, economically, and militarily.

To understand the complexity of the effort, it is essential to understand the pillars that buttress the CCP and its "Unrestricted Warfare" strategy. In combination, these pillars increase the CCP's strategic reach and tactical agility, amplifying its influence, strength, and control in economics, technology, space, and warfare.

Initially rooted in the theories of Mao Zedong, this strategy is based on the idea that the strength of the Chinese people, can be harnessed to wage a prolonged struggle against superior forces---especially in the context of asymmetrical warfare. The "People's War" involved the active participation of the entire population, including civilians, in supporting

the war effort. The idea is to mobilize all segments of society, from soldiers to farmers and from workers to academics--- creating a broad-based and resilient force capable of engaging in guerrilla tactics and resisting a conventional superior military force. In the “People’s War”, citizens from any station of society become a critical force for both resistance and logistical support, even when the military is not directly involved in combat.

The modern evolution of this concept is known as “Unrestricted Warfare”. Described as a war “without limits,” it doesn’t pertain to breaching boundaries as much as to expanding them. It represents a more multifaceted strategy that seeks to exploit all avenues of power, blending military with non-military tools, to weaken or defeat an adversary, irrespective of traditional limitations in warfare. Everything becomes a potential weapon and every citizen a potential warrior. From military, economic, political, and cyber, to legal and media (propaganda and censorship), it involves not just military engagement but also economic warfare (think supply chain manipulation), information warfare, biological warfare, and cyber warfare. It involves of manipulating and exploiting a country’s legal system, civil society, and democratic institutions. It adapts to the advances in technology, and the interconnectivity of economies and countries, and the complexity of modern warfare.

The concept of “Unrestricted Warfare” can be broadly articulated by describing three pillars.

- **Pillar One: Military-Civil Fusion—**

This refers to using civilian fronts as cover for work being done on behalf of the military and CCP inside and outside China.

A recent example involves China's military preparing for war against Taiwan. The PLA has outfitted civilian fishing vessels with military equipment installed to deceive Taiwan and its ally, the U.S.. They know that international law prohibits militaries from attacking civilian vessels.

- **Pillar Two: Medical and Academic Research:** Medical and academic research often serves as an entry point for CCP agents abroad. They seek friendly collaboration but have the same nefarious motives as military scientists.

The CCP leverages the infiltrated professional networks at U.S. universities and private biotech labs using inducements in research attribution, achievement awards, grants, and capital investment. These become the often-subtle levers of corruption within the U.S. research and private biotech communities. This insidious tactic has corrupted the independence of researchers, medical doctors, and private biotech companies.

- **Pillar Three: Mis-Information and Censorship**

Whether using the Hate Speech Engineering team at Facebook or TikTok as a weaponized social media platform--- manipulation of one's understanding of events and ideas diminishes individual liberty and, over time, will weaken a society. As we have seen, Tik Tok has caused a generation of young people distraction, at best and great mental and emotional harm at worst. Their access to facial recognition data and the data from leakage from one's cell phones has proven another outcome designed into the seemingly innocuous platform.

But, by developing an understanding of the complexity of these strategic objectives and related tactics each of you will inevitably draft and pass more thoughtful and impactful legislative

initiatives. This understanding of China will inform your efforts and better protect North Dakota's citizens, economy, infrastructure, and long-term security--- and by extension, that of the United States.

North Dakota represents a multifaceted target whose strategic importance supersedes its population because of its agricultural and energy production, UAV technology programs, biotech industry, and myriad military sites. Any effort you make to protect the state from China's ill-intentions and dangers will inevitably also impact the broader security of the country.

Food production is a vital element to U.S. national security--- North Dakota's ability to produce specifically positions state leaders as powerful voices for the rest of the ag-producing country.

With over 54 different commercial commodities and 13 micro-climates representing different soil types, which are ideal for different commodities, it should not be lost on any member here that North Dakota represents a unique and important target for foreign adversaries like China.

The idea that I am using the phrase "Unrestricted War" may be alarming to many of you. But understanding that not wanting war, or not liking war does not preclude one's adversary from never-the-less declaring and engaging in war against them.

One begins to understand the scale of the CCP's "Unrestricted Warfare" initiatives by studying their own documents and statements.

One such document from 2015, authored by Chinese scientists, public health officials and members of the PLA entitled, "*The Unnatural Origin of SARS and New Species of Man-Made Viruses as Genetic Bioweapons*"¹, predicts that World War Three would be fought with

¹ <https://www.news.com.au/world/coronavirus/leaked-chinese-document-reveals-a-sinister-plan-to-unleash-coronaviruses/news-story/53674e8108ad5a655e07e990daa85465>

biological weapons. Having lived through the COVID-19 pandemic from which 7 million people died globally, one must take seriously the authors description of efforts to develop bioweapons designed also to destroy America's livestock and crops.

Then, in a 2019 broadcast on China's state-run news agency, CCT, the announcer asserts that a "People's War" had begun in response to then-President Trump's tariffs on some Chinese goods.

Finally, on May 14, 2022, the Guangdong Provincial Party Committee convened an extended meeting of the Standing Committee after receiving the National Mobilization Order and peacetime to wartime transition Instructions. Provincial government and military leadership attended. A recording² of the meetings was surreptitiously shuttled out of the country and is now open source. One leader is heard saying,

"Comrades, strategic decision-making is critical to the great cause of national rejuvenation, to the future and destiny of the country, and to influencing the global strategic landscape. Implementing the transition from peacetime to wartime is a key measure for winning the nation's overall war, the general political war, and the people's war in the new era [Referring to Unrestricted War]. It must be prioritized and carried out effectively."

² <https://youtu.be/WUDKWh0QQn0>

(同志们，战略决胜，事关民族复兴伟业，关乎国家前途命运，影响世界战略格局，实施平战转换，是打赢国家总体战，全局政治战，和新时代人民战争的关键之举，必须抓紧抓好。)

Meanwhile, sources along the border now indicate that there are 3700 command-level members of the People's Liberation Army inside the U.S... As of April 2024--- 24,376 Chinese nationals had been encountered at the Southwest border--- 24,214 were apprehended while illegally crossing the border. Encounters of Chinese nationals in March 2024 increased by over 8,000 percent compared to March 2021. Just over a year later, the CCP moved from peacetime to wartime footing. How many more military-aged Chinese men have illegally crossed into our country since then? March 2024 also marked a historic high for encounters along the busiest sector of the *northern* border, the Swanton Sector, which saw a nearly 50-percent increase compared to March 2023 and more than a 2,000-percent increase compared to March of FY21. More than 1,000 Chinese nationals have crossed the northern border every month for the past five months.³

I hope you will consider what I have shared today and then act upon what you learn... each of you in a way that maximizes your expertise, unique knowledge, and particular area of focus for protecting North Dakota and the security of America.

³ <https://homeland.house.gov/2024/04/18/startling-stats-factsheet-encounters-of-chinese-nationals-surpass-all-fiscal-year-2023-at-the-southwest-border/>

As you consider foreign adversary legislation this session, it is vitally important that you understand that the CCP has the intention to harm America -----They have the capability to harm America--- and they are already here... inside America and in North Dakota. Only through your decisive action to understand the complexity of their tactics will their “Unrestricted War” be blunted and their efforts be neutralized in North Dakota and throughout the country.

Thank you.