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Contact:
Joe Gebbia, Founder and CEO, State Shield
joe@state-shield.org

State Shield Applauds Governor Sarah Sanders and Arkansas Legislature for Enacting Nation's First Comprehensive Foreign-Agent Transparency Law

State Shield, a national organization that equips state leaders to defend against hostile foreign influence, congratulates Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders and the Arkansas State Legislature for passing and signing House Bill 1800 into law which will require lobbyists and front groups funded by adversarial regimes like the People's Republic of China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea to register with the Arkansas Ethics Commission and publicly disclose their funding, clients, and activities.

"This law sets the standard for state-level transparency and protection against hostile foreign agents," said Joe Gebbia, CEO & Founder of State Shield. "For too long, the Chinese Communist Party and other hostile governments have hidden behind shell nonprofits to sway policy, fund protests, and infiltrate our institutions. Arkansas had made it clear: if you represent an enemy of the United States, the public has a right to know."

"I was proud to be the first Governor in the country to kick Communist China off our farmland and out of our state, and this legislation builds on my administration's strong stance against America's adversaries," said Governor Sanders. "We cannot allow enemies like Communist China to interfere in our policy-making or ballot processes."

The legislation requires registration for any individual or organization acting on behalf of a hostile foreign nation, including the People's Republic of China, Russia, Iran, or North Korea. The bill will not affect lobbyists of multinational companies outside these areas or representatives of other countries. The bill has enhanced campaign finance disclosures and severe civil penalties for violations.



From left to right: J.R. Davis, Sen. Matt McKee, Gov Sarah Sanders, Rep. Mindy McAlindon, and Joe Gebbia. Photo credit: Office of the Arkansas Governor

About State Shield

Our mission is to educate State leaders regarding the dangers a resurgent and aggressive China poses to the United States. By proposing policy, executive, and legislative solutions to counter China's efforts to undermine the United States, we work to ensure our States, their citizens, and their infrastructure are protected from this threat. Learn more at state-shield.org.

3112 Windsor Rd., A370 | Austin, TX 78703 | (737) 230-4833 | Joe@State-Shield.org