

Responses to Written Questions Submitted by Honorable Jerry Moran to Michael Wessel

*Question.* Your testimony highlighted the concerns of China’s involvement in international standards-setting organizations and the potential impact on technological interoperability and operations. Would you please describe examples of their involvement and potential harms stemming from it?

Response. China has had an aggressive strategy to influence the standards and rules that will drive the development and deployment of 5G equipment. Most importantly, China has put substantial energy and resources into participating and leading the design of standards at international standards setting bodies such as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), where they chair more committees than any other delegation. China has participated – via government and “private sector” participants – to drive standards in ways that will promote the interests of their companies. This strategy has the potential to provide enormous advantages to Chinese firms and the government.

5G will be the communications technology that provides greater connectivity between devices than ever before. The Internet of Things (IoT) will be dramatically enhanced by 5G. 5G will create enhanced capabilities for cyberespionage as the “attack surfaces” will be exponentially increased. The countries and companies that control the technology have the capabilities to use their technologies for intelligence, counterintelligence, surveillance and other efforts which could be averse to our interests.