JIM BANKS THRO DISTRICT, INDIVIN



ANNED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SCLEET COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE CHINESE COMMITTEE PARTY

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1403

May 9, 2023

Robert Iger Chief Executive Officer The Walt Disney Company 500 S. Buena Vista St Burbank, CA 91521

Dear Mr. Iger:

In September 2020, U.S. lawmakers and human rights groups from around the world condemned Disney for its decision to film a live-action remake of *Mulan* in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), the center of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) ongoing genocide against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslim groups. While filming, Disney cooperated with Chinese security and propaganda authorities active in the XUAR, including ones complicit in Beijing's human rights atrocities.

For years, Chinese dissidents and human rights watchdogs have called attention to the Chinese Communist Party's mass detainment, sterilization, and enslavement of millions of Uyghurs and other ethnic groups in the XUAR. It strains credulity that Disney was unaware of the genocide occurring around its film sets when *Mulan* reportedly began production in XUAR in 2018. Worse, in *Mulan*'s credits, your company thanked several Chinese government agencies participating in the genocide, including the Public Security Bureau of Turpan, which then-President Trump placed on the Commerce Department's Entity List in 2019 for "human rights violations and abuses" against Uyghurs and other ethnic groups. Disney's credits also expressed gratitude to the "Publicity Department of CPC Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Committee," the CCP propaganda arm charged with covering up the abuses.

Disney never apologized for partnering with and praising Chinese Communist Party agencies actively engaged in genocide.

We recently received reports that Disney has evaded meeting with victims of the Uyghur genocide. Shortly after *Mulan's* premiere, a coalition of likeminded groups contacted Disney and asked to organize a sit-down between Disney executives, Uyghur victims' families, and Uyghur advocates. Our understanding is that Disney's representatives initially agreed to schedule an off-the-record discussion. The advocacy groups were hopeful about the opportunity to help correct your company's apparent indifference towards the Uyghur genocide; surely if Disney's

executives heard firsthand accounts of the genocide, they would take a harder stance against its perpetrators. But, after initially agreeing to the meeting, Disney's representatives suddenly cut off the correspondence and ignored the groups' further inquiries. At the time, you served as Disney's Executive Chairman, while former CEO Bob Chapek oversaw the company's day-to-day operations.

In March, Uyghur Human Rights Project Chairman Nury Turkel testified about the Uyghur genocide to the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party. You and other Disney executives would benefit greatly from his expertise.

Now that you have returned to your position as Disney CEO, we are writing to request a meeting between you, other Disney executives, and representative from the Uyghur American Association and the Uyghur Human Rights Project.

We have no doubt that such a meeting would prove educational for your company and would be a simple first step in clarifying to millions of Americans that Disney does, in fact, care about the Chinese Communist Party's systematic extermination of minority ethnic groups.

Please email <u>Hailee.Hampton@mail.house.gov</u> in the office of Representative Banks, who can assist you in scheduling a meeting.

Thank you,

Jim Banks

Member of Congress

John Moolenaar

Member of Congress

Ashley Hinson

Member of Congress

Mike Gallagher Member of Congress

Neal P. Dunn, M.D. Member of Congress