



JANEL STATE REPRESENTATIVE BRANDTJEN



Rep. Brandtjen Raises Concerns Over Speaker Robin Vos' Apparent Compromise with CCP Interests

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Madison – State Representative Janel Brandtjen has issued the following statement in response to Speaker Vos' compromise with CCP interests:

"Today, I wish to draw attention to the concerning ties between Speaker Robin Vos and organizations linked to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). This relationship not only raises serious questions about potential compromises but also poses a significant threat to our state's legislative integrity and sovereignty.

In a crucial address in Madison in September 2020, then Secretary of State Mike Pompeo highlighted the CCP's ambitions to sway American opinions towards Beijing's authoritarianism. Pompeo warned, 'Know that when you are approached by a Chinese diplomat, it is likely not in the spirit of cooperation or friendship. If you're offered a trip to China when the pandemic travel restrictions are lifted, you should ask who is paying for the trip, and if that person is linked – directly or indirectly – to the Chinese Communist Party. These approaches may happen from Chinese nationals or Americans working with CCP-linked interests.' He further emphasized, "We watch the CCP campaigns targeting state-level officials, local interests. We've seen them at PTA meetings, they have been in full swing for years and they're increasing in intensity.'

Despite such warnings, Speaker Vos participated in at least two trips under the sponsorship of CCP associates: a 2016 trip to Wuhan funded to the tune of almost \$14,000 by the State Legislators Leadership Foundation (SLLF) and a 2023 trip to Copenhagen sponsored by the Energy Foundation China. While based in San Francisco, this nonprofit organization is recognized for its links to CCP initiatives, focusing on climate change discussions between the United States and China.

Pompeo's observation that the CCP's influence campaigns are 'increasing in intensity' and targeting state-level officials was further exemplified in October 2019. As President of the National Convention of State Legislators, Vos openly praised Li Xiaolin of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, stating, 'Madame Li has traveled to more than 100 countries on the face of the planet advocating for her special relationship to make sure that people understand all of the things that China is doing to improve people around the world.'

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The most alarming demonstration of potential compromise occurred in 2024 when Speaker Vos influenced the legislative process to obstruct AB269, a bill intended to restrict Chinese ownership of Wisconsin farmland. This decision poses a direct question about whose interests Speaker Vos truly represents.

It is imperative that we scrutinize these relationships and ensure our leaders are not unduly influenced by foreign interests contrary to American values.”

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