



Duncan Hunter
U.S. House of Representatives
50th District, California

March 1, 2018

The Honorable Jim Mattis
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Mattis:

As you are aware, Broadcom Limited, a Singapore-based company with significant Chinese interests, is seeking to acquire Qualcomm, a U.S. corporation. As early as next week, Broadcom may attempt a hostile takeover of Qualcomm's board of directors, resulting in its de-facto control of the company. The ongoing war on terror, coupled with continuing threats of missile attack, demand that the U.S. display dominance in protecting our nation's high-speed communications assets. Given the critical nature of Qualcomm's technologies, I request that you support a Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) review to investigate the national security implications of the acquisition and block any effort by Broadcom to takeover Qualcomm until a full review has been completed.

The high-speed communication industry is as important to American security today as the steel industry was to the United States during World War II. By acquiring Qualcomm, Broadcom would become the world's third-largest chipmaker, controlling a large portion of the supply chain, which is critical to the vital communication components such as Wi-Fi and cellular modem chips. Such a company could, if motivated by a nation or groups not friendly to the United States, compromise critical communications and install lock out features that would prevent U.S. security teams from monitoring mobile data. The potential impacts on U.S. security in critical situations are numerous.

It is also important to note that Broadcom is expanding strategic collaborations in China, manifested in Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) Agreements with Chinese companies HBC, Inspur and StarTimes. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I know China is engaged in stealing technology and intellectual property. I have significant concerns that this growing Chinese connection by Broadcom creates the opportunity for China's security agencies to access and utilize Qualcomm's technology in defense-critical situations.

Secretary Mattis, you will always be a General first to this Marine. You led thousands of young men, all fought for you and some died for our mission. As Secretary you have the ability, at this moment, to ensure America's security for a generation by protecting against a takeover of American technology that would do nothing short of crippling our defense against China. News reports indicate that there is a debate within CFIUS over whether it should act in this case. Therefore, time is of the essence. I respectfully request that you personally advocate for CFIUS to act quickly and block any action on this sale pending a full security review and investigation. Sempar Fi.

Sincerely,


Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress