

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2023

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Austin:

On February 4, 2023, the U.S. brought down a Chinese spy balloon, which had been tracked over U.S. airspace the week before. Since then, we have brought down three additional unidentified objects and temporarily closed a section of U.S. airspace. Two of these objects were brought down in American airspace, over Alaska on February 10, 2023, and over Lake Huron on February 12, 2023, and one was brought down in coordination with Canada over the Yukon territory. The American people are concerned by these incidents, and I urge you to address those concerns at the earliest possible moment to avoid the spread of misinformation.

It is essential for there to be trust and transparency between our government officials and the American people. These incidents have played out publicly but the lack of available information about the origins and purpose of the objects leaves room for conspiracy theories to grow. The longer these theories go unchecked, the greater the risk that this issue will become politicized. While I understand there are national security implications, I believe the American people have a right to know the status of your investigation into these incidents. You can avoid public confusion and frustration by sharing the Department's efforts to identify the objects. Additionally, I would ask that you provide a briefing for Members of Congress so that we can answer our constituents' questions on the subject.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter

Sincerely,



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress

cc: President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.