



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1403**

October 23, 2020

Department of State  
Office of Information Programs and Services  
2201 C Street N.W., Suite B266  
Washington, D.C. 20520-0000

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

To whom it may concern,

I am urging the release of any and all information, including but not limited to times, dates, locations, attendees, transcripts, readouts, and any and all references to or from former Vice President Joe Biden's private dinners with Chinese President Xi Jinping. On April 23, 2020, Ms. Natalie Winters formally requested the aforementioned information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The estimated date of completion for this request is currently April 5, 2023.

A 3-year delay is unacceptable. The U.S. electorate deserves to know any pertinent and sensitive information that may alter the 2020 presidential election and would have significant ramifications for United States foreign policy and international security regardless of if Mr. Biden is elected president or not.

Mr. Biden has confirmed publicly that the State Department has documented knowledge of these meetings. Speaking at a Council on Foreign Relations panel on January 23rd, 2018, Biden stated: "I've spent a lot of time—apparently, I was told by the folks at State—I've spent more time in private meetings with Xi Jinping than any world leader. I have 25 hours of private dinners with him, just he and I, and one interpreter." American citizens reserve the right to know the nature and content of Biden's conversations with the leader of the Chinese Communist Party. This regime has been formally classified by the Department of Defense as the "largest long-term threat to the U.S." Any private negotiations with a foreign government that poses such a dire threat to U.S. security must be investigated immediately.

Additionally, these private dinners may contain quid pro quo deals or informal negotiations that took place without the consent of Congress or any other executive agency. It is thus in the best interest of not only the State Department, but also the Department of Commerce, the Department of Defense, Congress, and the American people to declassify this information as quickly as possible to shed light on these discussions.

It is imperative that the release of this information is expedited. With such far reaching national importance as these negotiations may contain, and with a critical election soon facing the United States, there should be no higher priority than completing this FOIA request in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Banks".

JIM BANKS  
Member of Congress