

Elissa Slotkin can't be trusted to stand up to China or protect Michigan jobs. According to her own staff, Slotkin signed a secret non-disclosure agreement with a Chinese Communist Party-backed company to help them secure a business deal for an electric vehicle battery plant in Michigan – and then covered it up. Slotkin is another dishonest politician who will sell America out to China. Slotkin should be fired, not promoted.

Editor's Note: The NDAs signed by Elissa Slotkin and her staff can be found below or [here](#).

Gotion is a battery technology company focused on clean energy.

- **Gotion is a battery technology company focused on clean energy.** “Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, Gotion is a fast-growing energy solutions company that aims to innovate and create the next generation of battery technology...A simple thought really. In the near future, clean energy will be the main driver fueling many aspects of our daily lives. We want to be a part of that transition and journey.” (“About Gotion,” [Gotion](#), Accessed 3/27/23)

In October 2022, Gotion announced plans to spend \$2.36 billion on a battery components plant in Big Rapids, Michigan, with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) offering the company up to \$1.14 billion in subsidies and incentives.

- **In October 2022, Gotion announced plans to spend \$2.36 billion on a battery components plant in Big Rapids, Michigan.** “Global battery manufacturer Gotion announced plans Wednesday to spend \$2.36 billion on a battery components plant in Big Rapids, creating 2,350 new jobs. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer called it ‘the biggest ever economic development project in Northern Michigan’ and said the plant further cements the state's position as a leader in electric vehicle manufacturing. Gotion is based in China. The company works on research, development, production and sale of lithium ion batteries used in a variety of vehicle applications.” (Ryan Jeltema, “Gotion announces plans for \$2.36 billion battery component plant in Big Rapids,” [ABC 12 News](#), 10/5/22)
- **The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) offered Gotion up to \$1.14 billion in subsidies and incentives.** “A Sept. 23 letter from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation offered Gotion up to \$1.14 billion in subsidies counting state, local, and utility incentives. The Michigan Strategic Fund has approved \$715 million in taxpayer subsidies for the company.” (Scott McClallen, “Gotion pauses Big Rapids battery plant after locals ask questions,” [The Center Square](#), 2/27/23)

In February 2023, Elissa Slotkin’s spokesperson, Austin Cook, confirmed that Slotkin and a member of her staff signed an NDA with MEDC for the Gotion project so she could “be part of those conversations...about significant economic development” and to see “if there are ways to help from the federal level.”

- In February 2023, Elissa Slotkin’s spokesperson, Austin Cook, confirmed that Slotkin and a member of her staff signed an NDA with MEDC for the Gotion project so she could “be part of those conversations...about significant economic development” and to see “if there are ways to help from the federal level.” “Another NDA was signed by staffer Austin Girelli, deputy legislative director for Democratic U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin of Lansing, but only after the Gotion project had already been announced publicly. Girelli appears to represent the only federal entity to engage in such an agreement with the state, at least as it relates to the Gotion deal... On Friday, Slotkin's office said the congresswoman believed it was important, as part of the Michigan congressional delegation, ‘to learn more about significant economic development projects like this to better understand their impact, and if there are ways to help from the federal level.’ ‘To be part of those conversations, MEDC required Congresswoman Slotkin and members of our staff to sign an NDA,’ said Austin Cook, a spokesman for Slotkin.” (Beth LeBlanc, “How Michigan uses code names, NDAs to keep business incentive talks secret,” [The Detroit News](#), 2/6/23)
 - **Gotion’s plans to build the battery components plant required 36 non-disclosure agreements with legislative staff and executive branch employees, including several officials in Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s office.** “A battery maker's plans to build a sprawling plant near Big Rapids required 36 non-disclosure agreements with legislative staff, executive branch employees and the elected officials tasked with awarding nearly \$800 million in tax incentives, state records show. The agreements, obtained by The Detroit News through a public records request, included 11 lawmakers, nearly 20 legislative staffers and several officials within Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's administration – all of whom signed agreements that last five years and include a running list of projects, memos and information blocked from release to the public paying the money to aid businesses.” (Beth LeBlanc, “How Michigan uses code names, NDAs to keep business incentive talks secret,” [The Detroit News](#), 2/6/23)

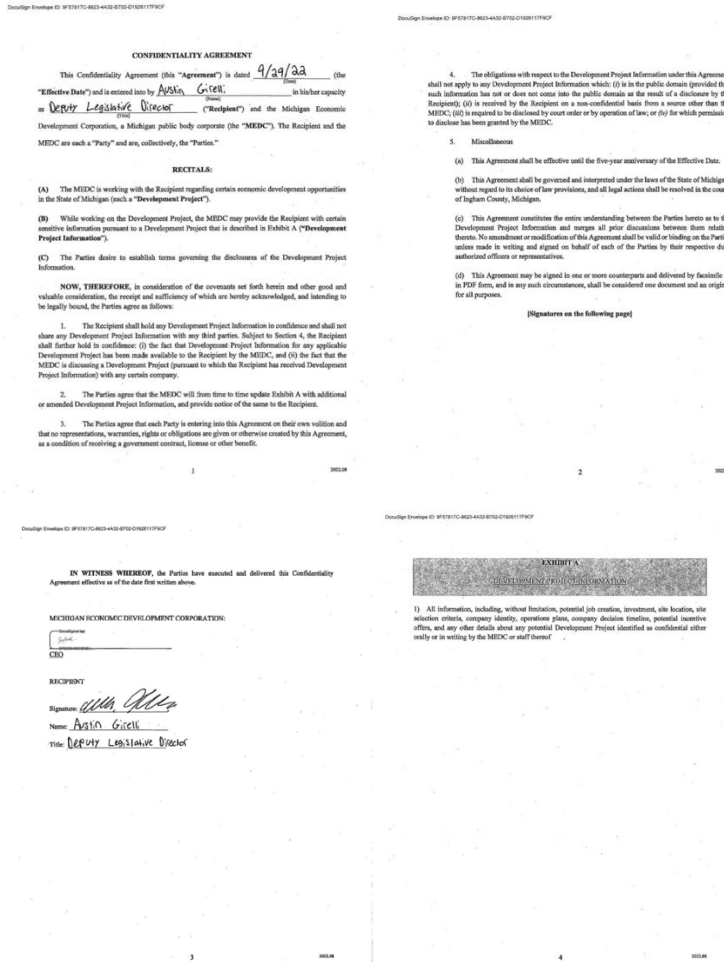
In April 2023, Elissa Slotkin’s spokesperson, Austin Cook, again “confirmed Slotkin signed the NDA” with MEDC for the Gotion plant project.

- In April 2023, Elissa Slotkin’s spokesperson, Austin Cook, “confirmed Slotkin signed the NDA” with MEDC for the Gotion plant project. “However, Cook and Matt Hennessey, Slotkin's chief of staff, ignored several inquiries from Fox News Digital this week about the NDA, if she signed it to shield herself from questions about Gotion and whether she believed it was appropriate to hide such negotiations from the public. Following publication of this report, Cook confirmed Slotkin signed the NDA, but

declined to comment further.” (Thomas Catenacci, “Dem congresswoman silent on why she signed hush agreement involving Chinese tech company,” [Fox News](#), 04/20/23)

As part of the Gotion confidentiality agreement package, Austin Girelli, Deputy Legislative Director for Elissa Slotkin, signed an NDA in September 2022 for a document titled 2022.08.

- As part of the Gotion confidentiality agreement package, Austin Girelli, Deputy Legislative Director for Elissa Slotkin, signed an NDA in September 2022 in a document titled 2022.08.



(MEDC Response to June 2023 FOIA, Austin Girelli NDA, Signed 08/29/22)

Elissa Slotkin signed an NDA in January 2022.

- Elissa Slotkin signed an NDA in January 2022 for the project, approximately one month after Gotion initially entered into a confidentiality agreement with MEDC.

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

This Confidentiality Agreement (this "Agreement") is dated 01/11/2022 (the "Effective Date") and is entered into by Elissa Slotkin (Name) in his/her capacity as Member of Congress (Title) ("Recipient") and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, a Michigan public body corporate (the "MEDC"). The Recipient and the MEDC are each a "Party" and are, collectively, the "Parties."

RECITALS:

- (A) The MEDC is working with the Recipient regarding certain economic development opportunities in the State of Michigan (each a "Development Project").
(B) While working on the Development Project, the MEDC may provide the Recipient with certain sensitive information pursuant to a Development Project that is described in Exhibit A ("Development Project Information").
(C) The Parties desire to establish terms governing the disclosures of the Development Project Information.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants set forth herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, and intending to be legally bound, the Parties agree as follows:

- 1. The Recipient shall hold any Development Project Information in confidence and shall not share any Development Project Information with any third parties. Subject to Section 4, the Recipient shall further hold in confidence: (i) the fact that Development Project Information for any applicable Development Project has been made available to the Recipient by the MEDC, and (ii) the fact that the MEDC is discussing a Development Project (pursuant to which the Recipient has received Development Project Information) with any certain company.
2. The Parties agree that the MEDC will from time to time update Exhibit A with additional or amended Development Project Information, and provide notice of the same to the Recipient.
3. The Parties agree that each Party is entering into this Agreement on their own volition and that no representations, warranties, rights or obligations are given or otherwise created by this Agreement, as a condition of receiving a government contract, license or other benefit.

EXHIBIT A
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT INFORMATION

- 1) All information regarding a potential Development Project referred to as [REDACTED] including, without limitation, potential job creation, investment, site location, site selection criteria, company identity, operations plans, company decision timeline, potential incentive offers, and any other details about [REDACTED].
2) All information regarding a potential Development Project referred to as [REDACTED] including, without limitation, potential job creation, investment, site location, site selection criteria, company identity, operations plans, company decision timeline, potential incentive offers, and any other details about [REDACTED].

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed and delivered this Confidentiality Agreement effective as of the date first written above.

MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:
DocuSigned by:
[Signature]
MEO 0780064992046A.
RECIPIENT
Signature: [Signature]
Name: Elissa Slotkin
Title: Member of Congress

(MEDC Response to June 2023 FOIA, Elissa Slotkin NDA, Signed 01/11/22)

In December 2022, Elissa Slotkin's agreement was updated to include "any potential Development Project identified as confidential either orally or in writing by the MEDC or staff thereof."

- In December 2022, the confidential development project information attached to Slotkin's NDA was updated to include "any potential Development Project identified as confidential either orally or in writing by the MEDC or staff thereof."

EXHIBIT A

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT INFORMATION

Updated: December 13, 2022

- 1) All information regarding a potential Development Project referred to as [REDACTED] including, without limitation, potential job creation, investment, site location, site selection criteria, company identity, operations plans, company decision timeline, potential incentive offers, and any other details about [REDACTED]
- 2) All information regarding a potential Development Project referred to as [REDACTED] including, without limitation, potential job creation, investment, site location, site selection criteria, company identity, operations plans, company decision timeline, potential incentive offers, and any other details about [REDACTED]
- 3) All information, including, without limitation, potential job creation, investment, site location, site selection criteria, company identity, operations plans, company decision timeline, potential incentive offers, and any other details about any potential Development Project identified as confidential either orally or in writing by the MEDC or staff thereof

(MEDC Response to June 2023 FOIA, Elissa Slotkin NDA, Updated 12/13/22)

Later, Elissa Slotkin was caught “contradicting her past claims” that she “signed a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) allowing her to engage in closed-door discussions involving a Chinese green energy firm [Gotion] with state officials.”

- **As reported by Fox News in August 2023, Elissa Slotkin signed a non-disclosure agreement allowing her to engage in closed-door discussions about Gotion’s project in January 2022.** “Democratic Michigan Rep. Elissa Slotkin signed a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) allowing her to engage in closed-door discussions related to a project involving a Chinese green energy firm with state officials. Slotkin signed the NDA – obtained via information request and shared this week with Fox News Digital – with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) on Jan. 11, 2022.” (Thomas Catenacci, “Michigan Democrat signed NDA involving CCP-tied company, documents show, contradicting her past claims,” [Fox News](#), 08/23/23)
- **The agreement was amended to include two redacted projects and to broadly apply to “any potential Development Project identified as confidential” and “includes a proposed project from Gotion, a subsidiary of the Hefei, China-based Gotion High-Tech, to build an electric vehicle (EV) battery plant.”** “Months later, on Dec. 13, 2022, the agreement was amended, now including two redacted projects and to state it broadly applied to ‘any potential Development Project identified as confidential.’ Although the two specific projects are unknown, since it applies to any project deemed confidential, the NDA consequently includes a proposed project from Gotion, a subsidiary of the Hefei, China-based Gotion High-Tech, to build an electric vehicle (EV) battery plant in Big Rapids, Michigan, outside Slotkin's district.” (Thomas Catenacci, “Michigan Democrat signed NDA involving CCP-tied company, documents show, contradicting her past claims,” [Fox News](#), 08/23/23)
- **The NDA “appears to contradict Slotkin’s previous claim that she never signed an NDA involving Gotion.”** “The NDA additionally appears to contradict Slotkin's previous claim that she never signed an NDA involving Gotion. A campaign spokesperson for Slotkin,

who is widely favored to win the Democratic nomination for the open Michigan Senate seat next year, told Fox News Digital in June that the congresswoman didn't sign the NDA.” (Thomas Catenacci, “Michigan Democrat signed NDA involving CCP-tied company, documents show, contradicting her past claims,” [Fox News](#), 08/23/23)

The NDA that Slotkin and her staffer “signed with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation in 2022” was related to Gotion which was “referred to as” a development project in the NDA.

- According to *The Midwesterner*, the NDA that Slotkin and her staffer “signed with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation in 2022 related to Gotion and CATL, referred to as “Development Projects” in the NDAs. “The Midwesterner has obtained copies of the five-year NDAs Slotkin and a staffer signed with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation in 2022 related to Gotion and CATL, referred to as ‘Development Projects’ in the NDAs.” (Bruce Edward Walker, “Look: Elissa Slotkin’s NDA to keep CCP-linked projects secret,” [The Midwesterner](#), 03/06/24)
 - Per *Michigan News Source*, the NDA Slotkin signed covers “any potential” project with MEDC and could include the Ford-CATL project. “Fox News Digital has obtained information that Slotkin had signed an NDA with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) in January of 2022. At the end of the same year, the agreement was changed to include two redacted projects and it also stated that it included ‘any potential Development Project identified as confidential.’ Because she can’t discuss ‘any’ potential development projects, those projects could include two projects that have Chinese ties including Gotion, Inc., a subsidiary of the Hefei, China-based Gotion High-Tech and also Marshall’s Ford BlueOval Battery Park plant that has China ties because of its involvement and partnership with the foreign Chinese Battery Company Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Ltd (CATL).” (Katie Heid, “Uncovered: Elissa Slotkin Signed Non-Disclosure Agreement With Megasite Coordinator That Covers Discussions With China-Linked Companies,” [Michigan News Source](#), 8/31/23)
 - Ford is building a plant in Marshall in partnership with CATL, where it will make batteries using technology licensed from CATL. “CATL's partnership with Ford Motor on an electric vehicle battery plant in the U.S. will not be affected by the White House's new rules on Chinese involvement in such projects, Zeng Yuqun, the founder of the Chinese battery giant, told Nikkei Asia. ‘The plant structure was designed under the definition of the foreign entity of concern (FEOC), so there will be no impact on further implementation,’ Zeng said. In February, Ford announced it would start producing low-cost lithium-ion batteries by 2026 at its plant in Michigan using technology licensed from CATL, the world's biggest maker of EV batteries.” (Cissy Zhou, “CATL says Ford project on track despite new U.S. battery rules,” [Nikkei](#), 12/7/23)

- Slotkin “signed non disclosure agreements with both battery plants.” “Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-MI, is using TikTok as part of her U.S. Senate campaign strategy, and has also signed nondisclosure agreements with both battery plants.” (Bruce Edward Walker, “Look: Elissa Slotkin’s NDA to keep CCP-linked projects secret,” [The Midwesterner](#), 03/06/24)
- **HEADLINE:** “Look: Elissa Slotkin’s NDA to keep CCP-linked projects secret.”

LOOK: Elissa Slotkin’s NDA to keep CCP-linked projects secret

As bipartisan U.S. representatives introduce bill to crack down on Chinese TikTok

BY BRUCE EDWARD WALKER
MARCH 6, 2024

(Bruce Edward Walker, “Look: Elissa Slotkin’s NDA to keep CCP-linked projects secret,” [The Midwesterner](#), 03/06/24)

In April 2023, former U.S. Ambassadors Peter Hoekstra and Joseph Cella called for an investigation of Gotion Inc. and Michigan officials – including Elissa Slotkin and her staff - for potential violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

- In April 2023, former U.S. Ambassadors Peter Hoekstra and Joseph Cella called for an investigation of Gotion, Inc. and Michigan officials for violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA). “Former U.S. Ambassadors Peter Hoekstra and Joseph Cella are calling on the U.S. Department of Justice to conduct an investigation of Gotion Inc. and Michigan officials for potential violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. Gotion Inc. has ties to a parent company based in China, and is attempting to build a electric vehicle battery parts manufacturing facility in Mecosta County. Total state and local incentives for the project, dubbed ‘Project Elephant,’ stand at \$1.14 billion. (Bruce Walker, “Former ambassador’s request foreign agent review of 10 Gotion ‘engagements.’” [The Center Square](#), 4/5/23)
- The Ambassadors state that there is an attempt by Michigan officials to “lobby, advocate, and solicit” for a battery manufacturer with ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). In a letter addressed to U.S. Assistant Attorney General for National Security Matthew Olsen, Hoekstra and Cella wrote, ‘As former ambassadorial colleagues well aware of the adversarial engagements of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) throughout the World, we are writing to you with grave concern over possible violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act, 22 U.S.C. 611 (FARA), involving the ongoing attempt by parties in the State of Michigan to lobby, advocate, and solicit for the presence of a particular lithium ion battery manufacturer based in the PRC, that maintains ties to the CCP, the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPCC), and the United Front Work Department (UFWD), and request you review these engagements and take any appropriate action.’” (Bruce Walker, “Former ambassador’s request foreign agent review of 10 Gotion ‘engagements.’” [The Center Square](#), 4/5/23)

- The Ambassadors specifically listed Elissa Slotkin and her staff as potential foreign agents who may need to register under FARA rules.** “The corporation's CEO, Quentin L. Messer Jr., is among the parties Hoekstra and Cella listed as potentially required to register under FARA rules ‘on account of their direct agreements and engagements with either foreign principals of Gotion, Inc., its parent company, Guoxuan High-Tech Co., Ltd, or its holding company, Nanjing Gotion Holding Group Co. Ltd.’ The others parties mentioned by name by Hoekstra and Cella are Jen Nelson, Michigan Economic Development Corp. Chief Operating & Customer Experience officer; Austin Girelli, deputy legislative director; U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich.; Randy Thelen, president and CEO, The Right Place; Chuck Thelen, vice president of North American Operations for Gotion; Bill Pink, president of Ferris State University; David Eisler, former president of Ferris State University; Paul Bullock, Mecosta County controller and administrator; Mark Gifford, city manager of Big Rapids; Bill Stank, supervisor in Big Rapids Charter Township; and Jim Chapman, supervisor in Green Township.” (Bruce Walker, “Former ambassador’s request foreign agent review of 10 Gotion ‘engagements.’” [The Center Square](#), 4/5/23)
- Hoekstra was a U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands from 2018 and 2021, and previously served 10 years on the U.S. House of Representatives Intelligence Committee.** “Hoekstra was a U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands from 2018 and 2021, and previously served 10 years on the U.S. House of Representatives House Intelligence Committee during his tenure as a Representative for Michigan’s 2nd congressional district from 1993 to 2011. Cella was an ambassador to Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tuvalu and Tonga from 2019 to 2021.” (Bruce Walker, “Former ambassador’s request foreign agent review of 10 Gotion ‘engagements.’” [The Center Square](#), 4/5/23)

Because Gotion is an American “subsidiary” of a Chinese corporation, mandates to promote and grow the Communist Party could be a requirement at the Big Rapids operation.

- Gotion is an American “subsidiary” of the Chinese corporation; therefore, mandates to promote and grow the Communist Party could be a requirement at the Big Rapids operation.** “Gotion, which is headquartered in Hefei City in the Anhui Province of China, has hired a Big Rapids-area man named Chuck Thelen to serve as its American representative for the foothold in the state. He performs media interviews and interacts with government officials. The company’s corporate filing with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs calls Gotion a “foreign profit corporation” with an American beachhead established in Fremont, California. The LARA filing undermines the notion that the company is an American ‘subsidiary’ of the Chinese corporation as some have claimed. In other words, the mandates to promote and grow the communist party ‘at the grass-roots level of the Company’ would likely be a requirement at the Big Rapids operation, which the company says could employ 2,350 people.” (Kyle Olson, “MI-funded battery maker mandates allegiance to ‘Constitution of the Party of China,’ company bylaws say,” [The Midwesterner](#), 3/22/23)

According to Gotion’s corporate documents, the company is a vehicle for the work of the Chinese Communist Party; the company even pledges its allegiance to the “Constitution of the Communist Party of China.”

- **According to Gotion’s corporate documents, the company is a vehicle for the work of the Chinese Communist Party; the company even pledges its allegiance to the “Constitution of the Communist Party of China.”** “Corporate documents obtained exclusively by The Midwesterner reveal the Chinese company the Michigan government is funding with \$715 million taxpayer dollars is a key vehicle for the work of the Chinese Communist Party. In July 2022, Gotion – the Chinese company purchasing 700 acres of property near Big Rapids – published a 94-page document titled, ‘Articles of Association,’ essentially the equivalent of an American company’s bylaws. The document, found on Gotion’s website, lays out the company’s governance structure and allegiance to the ‘Constitution of the Communist Party of China.’” (Kyle Olson, “MI-funded battery maker mandates allegiance to ‘Constitution of the Party of China,’ company bylaws say,” [The Midwesterner](#), 3/22/23)
- **According to the company’s bylaws, the company shall “set up a Party organization and carry out Party activities in accordance with the Constitution of the Communist Party of China.”**

Article 9 The Company shall set up a Party organization and carry out Party activities in accordance with the Constitution of the Communist Party of China. The Company shall ensure necessary conditions for carrying out Party activities. The secretary of the Party committee shall be the chairman.

(“Articles of Association,” [Gotion High-Tech Co., Ltd.](#), 7/22)

- **Chapter Six of the Articles of Association for Gotion establishes a “Party Committee” to ensure the company is adhering to Communist Party doctrine and furthering its objectives.** “Chapter VI of the Articles of Association (page 47) establishes a “Party Committee,” whose sole purpose is to ensure the company is adhering to Communist Party doctrine and furthering its objectives. ‘The Party Committee of the Company shall perform its duties in accordance with the Constitution of the Communist Party of China and other Party regulations,’ including, ‘Ensure and supervise the implementation of the Party’s guidelines, principles and policies in the Company, and implement major strategic decisions of the CPC (Communist Party of China) Central Committee and the State Council as well as relevant important work arrangements of the Party organization at the higher level.’” (Kyle Olson, “MI-funded battery maker mandates allegiance to ‘Constitution of the Party of China,’ company bylaws say,” [The Midwesterner](#), 3/22/23)

Gotion’s founder, Li Zhen, is a former Chinese government employee and has discussed electric vehicle batteries with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

- **Gotion’s founder Li Zhen is a former Chinese government employee and participant in the local Communist government leadership.** “Aside from that as a requirement for doing business in China, the company’s founder, Li Zhen, is a former government employee and participant in the local communist government leadership. According to Moomoo Technologies, he was ‘a researcher at the Economic Research Center of the Hefei Municipal Government,’ and a ‘delegate to the 13th, 14th, and 15th sessions of the Hefei Municipal People’s Congress.’” (Kyle Olson, “ML-funded battery maker mandates allegiance to ‘Constitution of the Party of China,’ company bylaws say,” [The Midwesterner](#), 3/22/23)
- **Zhen has experience in Chinese government agencies and recounted an interaction with Chinese President Xi Jinping regarding electric vehicle batteries.** “A video posted in 2015 by Gotion shed more light on Li Zhen’s access and influence in the CCP. The Gotion founder says, ‘I used to work in the government and also have experience in government agencies.’ He recounted an interaction with communist dictator Xi Jinping while Li showed off the company’s electric bus technology, ‘When President Xi visited Hefei last time, I introduced to him about the battery we provided for JAC’s electric vehicle,’ and touted the growth in battery capacity.” (Kyle Olson, “ML-funded battery maker mandates allegiance to ‘Constitution of the Party of China,’ company bylaws say,” [The Midwesterner](#), 3/22/23)

Gotion quietly registered as a Chinese foreign principal in April 2023 and disclosed that it is wholly owned and controlled by a Chinese parent company that employs nearly 1,000 members of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), including the company’s CEO.

- **Gotion “quietly” registered as a Chinese foreign principal.** “The company behind a controversial Michigan electric vehicle battery plant quietly appeared as a Chinese foreign principal in an under-the-radar registration, disclosures reviewed by Fox News Digital show. Gotion Inc., a Fremont, California-based energy company, has faced uproar from Republican politicians and residents in the state over potential Chinese Communist Party (CCP) influence concerns since it first unveiled plans to construct the multi-billion dollar facility with the support of Democratic Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. Gotion Inc.’s parent company, Gotion High-Tech, is headquartered in Hefei City, China.” (Joe Schoffstall and Thomas Catenacci, “Company behind contentious Michigan battery factory quietly appeared as Chinese foreign principal in filings,” [Fox News](#), 08/18/23)
 - **Gotion “quietly registered as a Chinese foreign principal, according to FARA filings” in April 2023 and disclosed that it is “wholly owned and controlled” by the China-based Hefei Gotion High-Tech Power Energy Co., LTD.** “But just one day after her statement, on April 21, Gotion Inc. was quietly registered as a Chinese foreign principal, according to FARA filings, which appears to have gone previously unreported. The U.S. subsidiary’s document declares that its “wholly owned and controlled” by the China-based Hefei Gotion High-Tech Power Energy Co., Ltd.” (Joe Schoffstall and Thomas Catenacci, “Company behind contentious Michigan battery factory quietly appeared as Chinese foreign principal in filings,” [Fox News](#), 08/18/23)

- **The Chinese parent company of Gotion Inc. employs 923 Chinese Communist Party (CCP) members, including its CEO.** “The Chinese parent company of Gotion Inc., which intends to build two electric battery plants in Michigan, employs 923 Chinese Communist Party (CCP) members, including its CEO, according to its 2022 ESG report.” (Philip Lenczycki, “EXCLUSIVE, CCP Officials Set Up Talent Recruitment Program At US Firm Behind Taxpayer-Backed EV Battery Plants,” [Daily Caller](#), 09/12/23)
 - **Chinese-language documents show Gotion is led by a CCP member and employs hundreds more of them.** “While Gotion Inc.’s representatives deny CCP influence, Chinese-language documents show its Hefei-based parent company is led by a CCP member and employs hundreds more of them.” (Philip Lenczycki, “EXCLUSIVE, CCP Officials Set Up Talent Recruitment Program At US Firm Behind Taxpayer-Backed EV Battery Plants,” [Daily Caller](#), 09/12/23)

Monique Field-Foster, an attorney at the firm acting as a foreign agent on behalf of Gotion, donated to Elissa Slotkin.

- **Monique Field-Foster, an attorney at the firm acting as a foreign agent on behalf of Gotion, donated to Elissa Slotkin.** “Individuals at a law firm registered as foreign agents to lobby on behalf of Gotion, a Chinese electric vehicle battery company developing a controversial project in Michigan, and wired campaign contributions to several top Democrats. According to state and federal filings, Monique Field-Foster, an attorney at the Lansing office of the Warner Norcross + Judd law firm who is acting as a foreign agent on behalf of Gotion, donated to the campaigns of Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Whitmer's sister Liz Geregthy and Michigan Democratic Senate hopeful Rep. Elissa Slotkin.” (Thomas Catenacci and Joe Schoffstall, “Lobbyist for CCP-tied EV company funneled cash to Democrats after filing as foreign agents.” [Fox News](#), 09/11/23)
- **HEADLINE:** “Lobbyist for CCP-tied EV company funneled cash to Democrats after filing as foreign agents.”

MICHIGAN

Lobbyists for CCP-tied EV company funneled cash to Democrats after filing as foreign agents

Lobbyists for Chinese green energy firm made donations to Democrats after registering as foreign agents



By Thomas Catenacci, Joe Schoffstall · Fox News

Published September 11, 2023 7:00am EDT

(Thomas Catenacci and Joe Schoffstall, “Lobbyist for CCP-tied EV company funneled cash to Democrats after filing as foreign agents.” [Fox News](#), 09/11/23)

In July 2024, Gotion “quietly admitted” in an amended FARA filing that it has been subsidized by the Chinese government, even though a Gotion executive previously said the CCP had no presence in Gotion.

- In July 2024, Gotion “quietly admitted” in an amended FARA filing that it has been subsidized by the Chinese government, even though a Gotion executive previously said the CCP had no presence in Gotion. “The taxpayer-funded U.S. arm of a Chinese electric vehicle (EV) battery maker quietly admitted on July 20 that it has received subsidies from the Chinese government after an executive suggested that the foreign power has no presence in the American subsidiary. Gotion, which is fully ‘owned and controlled’ by its China-based parent company Gotion High-Tech, disclosed in an amended Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) filing last month that it has received Chinese government subsidies. Chuck Thelen, vice president of North American manufacturing for Gotion, told Politico in August 2023 that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has no presence in the American subsidiary and told concerned locals in June that the CCP is merely ‘a political party, like Republican or Democrat.’” (Nick Pope, “China-Tied Battery Manufacturer Admits It Is Subsidized By Chinese Gov’t After All,” [Daily Caller](#), 8/6/24)
- Gotion, Inc. amended its FARA statement for the six-month reporting period ending in October 2023.

3. This amendment is filed to accomplish the following indicated purpose(es):

To give notice of change in information as required by Section 2(b) of the Act.

To correct a deficiency in

Initial Statement

Supplemental Statement for the 6 month period ending **10/31/2023**

Other purpose (*specify*) _____

To give notice of change in an exhibit previously filed.

(Amendment to Registration Statement Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended,” [FARA](#), 7/20/24)

- In July 2024, the company’s attorney amended its registration to state that Gotion, Inc. is partially subsidized through funding of the CCP.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/20/2024 11:17:15 AM

**Appendix
Response to Item 5**

Item 5: Each item checked above must be explained below in full detail together with, where appropriate, specific reference to and identity of the item in the registration statement to which it pertains.

Warner Norcross + Judd’s (“WNJ”) original filing from April 21, 2023, answered “no” on Question 10(b) sub-question six of the Exhibit A registration for whether the foreign principal client - Gotion, Inc. (“Gotion”) was subsidized in part by a foreign government, foreign political party, or other foreign principal. After a review from FARA office, it was determined that WNJ needed to amend this answer based on updated information.

WNJ amends its registration and states that Gotion is partially subsidized through government funding supplied by the People’s Republic of China. 2023 Annual Report of Gotion High-tech Co., Ltd. (April 20, 2024), <https://en.gotion.com.cn/uploads/file/20240419/1713527229600070.pdf>

(Amendment to Registration Statement Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended,” [FARA](#), 7/20/24)

- **HEADLINE:** “China-Tied Battery Manufacturer Admits It Is Subsidized By Chinese Gov’t After All.”

China-Tied Battery Manufacturer Admits It Is Subsidized By Chinese Gov't After All

(Nick Pope, "China-Tied Battery Manufacturer Admits It Is Subsidized By Chinese Gov't After All," [Daily Caller](#), 8/6/24)

- **HEADLINE:** "CCP Gotion admits company 'partially subsidized by 'People's Republic of China.'"

ORIGINALS

CCP Gotion admits company 'partially subsidized' by 'People's Republic of China'

Amended FARA filing after months of public denials

BY THE MIDWESTERNER STAFF
JULY 29, 2024

(Staff, "CCP Gotion admits company 'partially subsidized by 'People's Republic of China,'" [The Midwesterner](#), 07/29/24)

Gotion's parent company participated in CCP-backed programs designed to acquire advanced technology and research to support China's army, including a program to "clandestinely acquire U.S. technology and sensitive economic information."

- **HEADLINE:** "Parent Of US Battery Maker Participated In Communist Party Programs That Acquire Tech For China's Military."

EXCLUSIVE: Parent Of US Battery Maker Participated In Communist Party Programs That Acquire Tech For China's Military



(Nick Pope and Philip Lenczycki, "EXCLUSIVE: Parent Of US Battery Maker Participated In Communist Party Programs That Acquire Tech For China's Military," [Daily Caller](#), 1/16/24)

- Gotion's parent company participated in two CCP-backed programs, the 863 Program and the Torch Program, that were designed to acquire advanced technology and research to support China's army. "The Chinese parent company behind a U.S.-based

battery firm has engaged in two Chinese Communist Party (CCP)-backed programs that are known to national security experts and the U.S. government for acquiring dual-use technology and research, according to materials reviewed by the Daily Caller News Foundation. Gotion High-Tech has participated in the 863 Program and Torch Program, two initiatives identified as projects designed to acquire advanced technology and research to support the People's Liberation Army, according to a DCNF review of corporate materials.” (Nick Pope and Philip Lenczycki, “EXCLUSIVE: Parent Of US Battery Maker Participated In Communist Party Programs That Acquire Tech For China's Military,” [Daily Caller](#), 1/16/24)

- **The 863 Program provides funding and guidance for efforts to “clandestinely acquire U.S. technology and sensitive economic information.”** “The 863 Program ‘focuses on both military and civilian science and technology’ and aims ‘to accelerate the acquisition and development of science and technology in the [People's Republic of China],’ according to a report from the House Select Committee on the CCP. The program, launched in 1986, ‘provides funding and guidance for efforts to clandestinely acquire U.S. technology and sensitive economic information,’ according to the Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive.” (Nick Pope and Philip Lenczycki, “EXCLUSIVE: Parent Of US Battery Maker Participated In Communist Party Programs That Acquire Tech For China's Military,” [Daily Caller](#), 1/16/24)
- **The Torch Program seeks to undercut and monitor Western innovations that can be applied in a military context.** “The program is ‘basically the Chinese state’s attempt to direct funding into industries that they think will allow them to become the dominant power in the fourth industrial revolution,’ with an external component focused on monitoring and undercutting Western innovations complementing the program’s internal aspects, Brandon Weichert, a geopolitical analyst and national security expert, told the DCNF. ‘Whatever China can get commercially from the U.S., they can apply in a military context,’ Weichert said, adding that Gotion High-Tech’s affiliation with the Torch Program could be of particular concern given the Pentagon’s plans to electrify its non-tactical vehicle fleet in the coming years.” (Nick Pope and Philip Lenczycki, “EXCLUSIVE: Parent Of US Battery Maker Participated In Communist Party Programs That Acquire Tech For China's Military,” [Daily Caller](#), 1/16/24)
- **Joseph Cella, a former U.S. ambassador and co-founder of the Michigan-China Economic and Security Review Group, said the two programs are “weapons” in China’s “arsenal.”** “The United States is engaged in a second Cold War, now with China, and the federal government and state governments should engage accordingly and provide for our common defense,’ Joseph Cella, a former U.S. ambassador and co-founder of the Michigan-China Economic and Security Review Group, told the DCNF. ‘The People’s Republic of China and the CCP are engaged in unrestricted warfare against the United States, and Program 863 and the Torch Program are weapons in their arsenal.’” (Nick Pope and Philip Lenczycki, “EXCLUSIVE: Parent Of US Battery Maker Participated In Communist Party Programs That Acquire Tech For China's Military,” [Daily Caller](#), 1/16/24)

Gotion hosted CCP cultural trips for its employees and had them conduct party pledges to Communism.

- **Gotion High-Tech’s CEO, Li Zhen, is the party secretary for the firm’s CCP committee.** “Gotion High-Tech’s CEO, Li Zhen, is also identified as the party secretary for the firm’s CCP committee within a section of the 2022 ESG report highlighting the company’s 2022 ‘party building work situation.’” (Philip Lenczycki, “EXCLUSIVE: Chinese Parent Behind Company Building Michigan Battery Plants Employs 923 CCP Members,” [Daily Caller](#), 08/31/23)
- **In 2022, Zhen led a portion of CCP member representatives, Gotion leader groups, and “every level of core personnel” on a road trip to cultural revolutionary memorials in Anhui Province, China.** “The company’s party secretary for its CCP committee, chairman of the board of directors, Li Zhen, led a portion of CCP member representatives, company leader groups and every level of core personnel on a road trip to Anhui province’s Jinzhai Revolutionary Martyr’s Memorial Tower, to tour the Red Army Memorial Hall and Jinzhai Revolutionary Museum,’ the firm’s ESG report states.” (Philip Lenczycki, “EXCLUSIVE: Chinese Parent Behind Company Building Michigan Battery Plants Employs 923 CCP Members,” [Daily Caller](#), 08/31/23)
 - **During the trips, Gotion workers wore Red Army outfits and pledged to “fight for communism to the end of my life.”** “During the trips, Gotion High-Tech workers wore Red Army outfits and pledged to ‘fight for communism to the end of my life.’” (Thomas Catenacci, “Michigan EV plant’s owner promotes Chinese communist ideology at worker retreats: report,” [Fox News](#), 09/01/23)
 - **The company also held a trip to Dabie Mountain to commemorate the CCP’s Long March, a historic march that led to the emergence of Chinese dictator Mao Zedong.** “One month later, the company held a trip to Dabie Mountain to commemorate the CCP’s Long March, an historic march that led to the emergence of Chinese dictator Mao Zedong in early 1935.” (Thomas Catenacci, “Michigan EV plant’s owner promotes Chinese communist ideology at worker retreats: report,” [Fox News](#), 09/01/23)

Gotion High-Tech “carried out thematic education activities” such as “red theme education.”

- **Gotion High-Tech “carried out thematic education activities” such as “red theme education.”** “The company’s 2022 ESG report states Gotion High-Tech “carried out thematic education activities such as the study of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, red theme education, and love for students,” The Midwesterner reported.” (Thomas Catenacci, “Michigan EV plant’s owner promotes Chinese communist ideology at worker retreats: report,” [Fox News](#), 09/01/23)

In January 2024, former CIA Director and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and former CIA Director and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo both warned that the Gotion plant could be used for Chinese espionage.

- **In January 2024, former CIA Director and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta warned the Gotion plant could be used for Chinese espionage.** “Former CIA Director and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told lawmakers that a proposed electric vehicle battery plant in Michigan could be used for Chinese espionage. Panetta made the comments during a House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party hearing on Tuesday afternoon which focused on the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) support for America's adversaries. The former CIA director answered in the affirmative when Rep. John Moolenaar, R-Mich., asked if China could use the plant, which is being developed by a subsidiary of Hefei, China-based firm Gotion High-Tech, for espionage. ‘I don't think there's any question that they're going to take advantage of that situation,’ Panetta remarked. ‘And I think we have to be very vigilant about what the hell is going on. That's just the way they operate. They'll establish a manufacturing unit, they'll establish whatever they can, and then they will use that for their own intelligence purposes. They will use that for their own economic purposes.’” (Thomas Catenacci, “Former CIA Director Leon Panetta Warns China May Use Michigan EV Plant For Espionage,” [Fox News](#), 1/31/24)
- **Former CIA Director and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also testified that the Gotion plant presented national security risks and should not be built.** “In addition to Panetta, former CIA Director and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo similarly testified during the hearing that the Gotion facility in Michigan presented national security risks and shouldn't be built. ‘I think it is worse than the fact that they will engage in espionage. I think that's just top of the list,’ Pompeo told the panel. ‘They will use this in ways that will leverage Chinese advantage. These plants are deeply dangerous to our national security and ought not be built.’” (Thomas Catenacci, “Former CIA Director Leon Panetta Warns China May Use Michigan EV Plant For Espionage,” [Fox News](#), 1/31/24)

A former counterintelligence official testified it was “100%” likely that some of the people who come from China to work at the Gotion plant will spy for the Chinese Communist Party.

- **A former counterintelligence official testified that the Chinese Community Party will use Gotion’s plant near Big Rapids for spy operations.** “Former counterintelligence official William Evanina said the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) will use Gotion Inc.’s electronic-vehicle battery plant near Big Rapids for spy operations during his sworn testimony on Wednesday to the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party.” (Rick Brewer, “Former counterintelligence official says it’s ‘100%’ likely CCP will use Big Rapids battery facility for spying,” [WCMU Public Media](#), 07/31/23)

- **The counterintelligence official testified it was “100%” likely that some of the people who come from China to work on the project will spy for the Chinese Communist Party.** “U.S. Rep. John Moolenaar, R-Caledonia, a member of the select committee and whose congressional district includes Big Rapids, asked Evanina during Wednesday’s hearing if it is ‘basically a guarantee that some of the people who come from China to work on this project will spy for the CCP?’ ‘100%,’ said Evanina in response to Moolenaar’s question. ‘There will be an effort by the Communist Party of China to infiltrate that capability via cyber, human and hybrid methods using businessmen, engineers and what we call the non-traditional collector. They will go over and above to implement their efforts in that particular technology that’s in your district.’” (Rick Brewer, “Former counterintelligence official says it’s ‘100%’ likely CCP will use Big Rapids battery facility for spying,” [WCMU Public Media](#), 07/31/23)

Gotion allegedly had plans to house 200 to 300 Chinese nationals at a nearby college whose President is helping to facilitate the Gotion plant.

- **Chuck Thelen, Gotion Global Vice President, confirmed in conversations with the Big Rapids Township treasurer that the company would bring 200 to 300 Chinese nationals to initiate the start-up of the battery plant.** “In an email to the Pioneer, Big Rapids Township treasurer Penny Currie stated that during a meeting in October, she spoke with Gotion Global Vice President Chuck Thelen regarding the question of bringing in Chinese nationals for the initial startup. ‘He (Thelen) voluntarily acknowledged the company would bring 200 to 300 Chinese nationals to our area to initiate the startup of the plant, citing that they would have the necessary extensive knowledge to initiate the beginning stages of the plant,’ Currie said. ‘When asked where these folks would live, he simply stated ‘we would build housing for them.’ When we questioned where, he ceased talking about the topic.’” (Cathie Crew, “Ferris State president, township treasurer speak up about housing Gotion battery workers,” [Big Rapids News](#), 3/26/23)
- **Nearby Ferris State University was proposed as a housing site for the Chinese nationals working for Gotion.** “Currie said shortly after the meeting, they were made aware of the suggestion that Ferris State University could house them. When the question was posed to Thelen regarding that possibility, she said, his answer was that FSU would do whatever necessary to partner with Gotion.” (Cathie Crew, “Ferris State president, township treasurer speak up about housing Gotion battery workers,” [Big Rapids News](#), 3/26/23)
- **The President of Ferris State University, Bill Pink, serves as board vice-chair for The Right Place, which facilitates economic development deals, including the Gotion plant.** “FSU stands to gain more jobs for students, graduates, and possibly taxpayer funding for a new EV center through a grant, according to a memo. According to FSU’s website, Pink serves as board vice-chair for The Right Place, which facilitates economic development deals, including the Gotion plant. FSU might back the Gotion plant because it could drive

additional grants for the university. An FSU memo said a Michigan Economic Development Corporation grant targets shifting Michigan's workforce from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles. The memo said the first-year award would total \$659,500. The memo said the grant would fund a battery production and testing center at FSU. 'First, the center will curate a clearinghouse of expertise to develop the battery production and testing workforce within West Michigan,' the memo said. 'We will share this curriculum with partnering community colleges and sister universities. The center will also focus on applied research areas essential to the safe production of lithium batteries, a key technology for the future of the automotive industry.'" (Scott McClallen, "Ferris State University responds to Gotion controversy," [The Center Square](#), 3/27/23)

It was later reported that Gotion planned to bring up to 50 employees from China to help set up the plant.

- **It was later reported that Gotion plans to bring up to 50 employees from China to help set up the plant.** "Thelen said the company will likely have 40-50 employees by year's end in engineering, IT and other positions essential for initial operations. A workforce training partnership with nearby Ferris State University is a key piece of its labor sourcing strategy. The plan also includes bringing 20-50 short-term employees from China to help set the plant up. A general contractor and architect are expected to be named in the next few days." (Kurt Nagl, "Gotion lays out hiring plans, non-union preference for Michigan EV battery factory," [AutoNews](#), 08/10/23)

In June 2024, the House committee tasked with investigating China revealed evidence implicating Gotion in "Chinese Communist Party state-sponsored slave labor and the ongoing Uyghur genocide," and called on Biden to ban imports from the companies; Slotkin did not sign on to the effort.

- **In June 2024, Chairman John Moolenaar of the Select Committee on the CCP and other lawmakers revealed evidence implicating both Gotion and CATL in "Chinese Communist Party state-sponsored slave labor and the ongoing Uyghur genocide."** "In two letters to the Department of Homeland Security, Chairman John Moolenaar (R-MI) reveals shocking new evidence implicating major Chinese battery manufacturers, Gotion and CATL, in Chinese Communist Party state-sponsored slave labor and the ongoing Uyghur genocide. Despite CATL and Gotion holding these ties to Chinese paramilitary organizations and state-sponsored slave labor programs, the companies have operated and expanded their presence in the United States." (Press Release, "Moolenaar, Rubio, Lawmakers Uncover Shocking New Evidence of Slave Labor Links at Chinese Battery Companies Gotion, CATL & Demand Immediate Blacklist," [The Select Committee on the CCP](#), 6/6/24)
- **The lawmakers called on the Biden Administration to add Gotion and CATL to the import ban list.** "Republicans in both chambers of Congress are calling on the Biden administration to add two major Chinese EV battery makers working with companies such

as Ford to an import ban list, accusing the corporations of using forced labor in their supply chains. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida; Rep. John Moolenaar of Michigan, the new chair of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party; and their colleagues warned a top official at the Department of Homeland Security in two separate letters on Wednesday that leading Chinese electric vehicle battery manufacturers are relying on forced labor and should be blocked from importing goods into the U.S.” (Hannah Northey, “Republicans push Biden to blacklist Chinese EV battery makers,” [E&E News](#), 6/6/24)

- Slotkin did not sign on to the Gotion letter addressed to the Biden administration.

Sincerely,



John Moolenaar
Chairman
Select Committee on the
CCP

Mark E. Green, M.D.
Chairman
Committee on Homeland
Security

Marco Rubio
United States Senator

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress


Carlos Gimenez
Member of Congress

(Letter, [Select Committee on the CCP](#), 6/5/24)

- Slotkin did not sign on to the CATL letter addressed to the Biden administration.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



John Moolenaar
Chairman
Select Committee on the
CCP

Mark E. Green, M.D.
Chairman
Committee on Homeland
Security

Marco Rubio
United States Senator

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

Carlos Gimenez
Member of Congress

(Letter, [Select Committee on the CCP](#), 6/5/24)

According to the lawmakers, Gotion sources materials from companies with ties to forced labor, a company tied to a sanctioned Chinese paramilitary organization that contributes to the Uyghur genocide, and a company that “appears to maintain strong ties to the PRC’s military-industrial complex.”

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GOTION

- Gotion sources aluminum foil from a subsidiary of Xinjiang Nonferrous, a CCP state-owned enterprise known for its prolific use of forced labor, including forced housing of Han men with Uyghur women and families.
- Gotion sources material from Xinjiang Joinworld, a company that participated in 'poverty alleviation through labor transfer.' These programs are often a disguise for forced labor. A local CCP chapter even awarded a Xinjiang Joinworld employee an award for implementing the CCP's ethnic policies.
- Gotion sources lithium-ion and other materials from companies with deep connections to XPCC, the sanctioned Chinese paramilitary organization that contributes to the Uyghur genocide.

(Press Release, "Moolenaar, Rubio, Lawmakers Uncover Shocking New Evidence of Slave Labor Links at Chinese Battery Companies Gotion, CATL & Demand Immediate Blacklist," [The Select Committee on the CCP](#), 6/6/24)

- According to the lawmakers, Gotion sources from a company that “appears to maintain strong ties to the PRC’s military-industrial complex.”

Xinjiang Joinworld appears to maintain strong ties to the PRC's military-industrial complex, as evidenced by its designation as a “National Torch Plan Key High-Tech Enterprise,” its ability to secure military-related financing approvals from the CSRC, and its engagement with State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense (SASTIND, 国家国防科技工业局) and the XUAR's Defense Science and Technology Industry Office.²² The company has extensively participated in Chinese national programs with potential military applications, such as the “863” Program, the National Science and Technology Support Program, and the National Science and Technology Major Project, further highlighting its role as a “military supporting enterprise” in high-tech industrialization efforts relevant to the CCP's military modernization goals.²³

(Letter to DHS Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, [The Select Committee on the CCP](#), 6/5/24)

Michigan leaders raised concerns over the Gotion plant’s proximity to a Michigan National Guard camp that has trained Taiwanese military personnel.

- Michigan Congressman John Moolenaar raised concerns that the plant would be built within 100 miles of a Michigan National Guard camp where Taiwanese military personnel have trained. “Michigan Republican Rep. John Moolenaar pointed out the proposed factory would be a mere 100 miles from Camp Grayling, a Michigan National Guard training camp where military personnel from Taiwan have come to train for a possible Chinese attack. “Yet, Michigan’s state government leaders are siding with CCP-affiliated companies,” Moolenaar said, according to the outlet.” (Gretchen Clayson, “Rural Michigan Town Scores Victory Over CCP-Backed Company Gobbling Up US Farmland,” [Daily Caller](#), 8/14/23)
- The Gotion plant project will be located within 60 miles of military armories and within 100 miles of Camp Grayling where the Michigan National Guard trains Taiwanese soldiers. “The facility would be located within 60 miles of military armories and within 100 miles from Camp Grayling...Wall Street Journal reported earlier this year that the

Michigan National Guard trains Taiwanese soldiers during annual military exercises at Camp Grayling.” (Thomas Catenacci, “CCP-tied EV company backed by Dems buys up Michigan land miles from US military bases,” [Fox News](#), 08/01/23)

- **Joseph Cella, the Director of the Michigan-China Economic Review Group, noted that the proposed Gotion plant would be close to a Michigan National Guard armory.** “Gotion is owned by Gotion High-Tech, which is owned by Volkswagen and Nanjing Gotion Holding Group Co., Ltd, among other partners. Joseph Cella, director Michigan-China Economic and Security Review Group, told lawmakers on March 15 that Gotion’s parent company is headquartered in the People’s Republic of China and that its proposed plant would be close to a Michigan National Guard armory.” (Scott McClallen, “Ferris State University responds to Gotion controversy,” [The Center Square](#), 3/27/23)
 - **Cella said in a testimony that Gotion could be a threat due to its Chinese Communist Party ties and could increase espionage and influence operations by the People’s Republic of China.** “Cella said in testimony that the Chinese Communist Party controls Gotion. ‘The PRC and the CCP are penetrating our shores on a sub-national level and beyond the eyes of the United States Government. This is manifested through industry, higher education and whenever economic engagement occurs, there is great peril to our national security and our state security.... The reports and threats of espionage, intelligence gathering and influence operations by the PRC against the United States government, military, higher education and private sector, have soared in the last 15 years.’” (Scott McClallen, “Ferris State University responds to Gotion controversy,” [The Center Square](#), 3/27/23)
- **Gotion’s plant is slated to be built at the Big Rapids Industrial Park.** “The relationship with Big Rapids Township is still being built and I have high confidence that very soon, hopefully, they will be included in the overall plans. I do hope, and I do expect and have high confidence, that we will have the relationship with the Big Rapids Township much better cemented. It is just not there yet.’ Thelen said he understands there is apprehension about the project and questions that board members feel have not been answered properly, but he believes it will require some de-escalation of the situation to make them feel more comfortable about the project. ‘I am going to do my part in that,’ he said. ‘I am going to have conversations one-on-one with some of the board members and see what is bothering them or what questions they might have and answer them to the best of my ability.’ He said they would prefer to have the industrial park property included in the development because that would alleviate some of the wetland mitigation they would have in the Green Charter Township property, making everybody happier.” (Cathie Crew, “BREAKING: Big Rapids Township may still be part of Gotion battery plant project,” [Big Rapids News](#), 3/2/23)