

# U.S. Rep. Gallagher, U.S. Sen. Ernst: Introduce bill requiring full transparency over taxpayer dollars sent to China and Russia

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**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Representative Mike Gallagher (R-WI) and Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) are leading the charge to create transparency and accountability for the taxpayer dollars that are being handed out in China and Russia. They are introducing the *Tracking Receipts to Adversarial Countries for Knowledge of Spending (TRACKS) Act* that would require every penny from a government grant paid to any organization in China and Russia to be tracked and publicly disclosed.

More than \$1.3 billion U.S. tax dollars were sent to Russia and China over the past five years, according to a new analysis released by Senator Ernst and Open the Books. This amount likely doesn't reflect the total amount because federal agencies do not follow the trail of tax dollars to their final destination.

With data provided by the Congressional Research Service, Senator Ernst and Open the Books determined more than **\$490 million** from U.S. grants and contracts were paid to organizations in China over the past five years and another **\$870 million** were paid to entities in Russia.

*"Thanks to Senator Ernst's work, we know the federal government has wasted more than one billion in U.S. taxpayer dollars on our adversaries. This is crazy, but to make matters worse, this may only be the tip of the iceberg," said Rep. Gallagher. "The TRACKS Act brings badly needed transparency to how we spend federal dollars and will help us take steps to hold the government accountable and prevent taxpayers from supporting our adversaries."*

*“Washington’s continued spending is so out of hand, it is losing track of Americans’ hard-earned taxpayer dollars, but I am creating accountability for every penny,” said **Senator Ernst**. “It is gravely concerning that no one in Washington can actually account for millions sent to Russia and China for pointless projects. But I have the receipts. I’m shining a light on this reckless spending, so bureaucrats can no longer cover up their tracks and taxpayers can know exactly what their hard-earned dollars are funding.”*

*“Holding firms responsible to publicly report where and how they use their grants and contract awards can deputize private citizens and make them part of the solution. Radical transparency is revolutionizing U.S. public policy and is the information machine for democracy. Everyone has a stake in a more transparent, effective government,” said **Adam Andrzejewski, Founder and CEO of Open the Books**.*

Some of these pointless projects in Russia and China funded by taxpayer dollars that Ernst has already tracked down include:

- \$58.7 million from Department of State, including \$96,875 for gender equality through exhibition of *New Yorker* magazine cartoons
- \$51.6 million from Department of Defense, including \$6 million for tech support of the military “deployment and distribution command” software – delivering equipment and supplies anywhere our military is deployed, even though the DOD Inspector General warned the Pentagon about using Chinese IT companies on DOD projects
- \$4.7 million to a Russian company for health insurance that was sanctioned by the U.S. in 2022
- \$4.2 million from Health and Human Services, including \$770,466 to a state-run lab in Russia to put cats on treadmills
- \$2.4 million on Russian alcohol and addiction research
- \$2 million funneled to China’s state-run Wuhan Institute of Virology to conduct dangerous experiments on bat coronaviruses and transgenic mice
- \$1.6 million to Chinese companies from National School Lunch Program, which means taxpayer dollars from the CARES Act meant for American farmers went to Chinese ag exporters
- \$1.45 million for pandemic virus tracking in Russia
- Subsidies for the Russian space program by funding the Russia Space Agency and vendors