

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20528

December 6, 2023

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We are writing about recent reports that an Iranian regime-linked cyber group launched multiple hacks against U.S. water facilities that are using Israeli-made technology. We request a briefing about the protections your department has already put in place, and any additional protections that your department needs to put in place, in order to protect our nation's water facilities and other critical infrastructure from adversary disruption.

The reports by Politico last month detail multiple hacks against U.S. water facilities, including confirmation that the Iranian-linked Cyber Av3ngers executed a cyber attack against a water authority in Pennsylvania. The hackers, according to the reports, disabled a digital control panel and took control of the display screen. This hack is part of a wave of Iranian-backed attacks against U.S. assets and interests following Hamas' October 7<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks in Israel. These also include numerous drone and rocket attacks against American troops and international commercial ships in the Middle East, injuring multiple service members. This particular hack was designed to fuel fears about using Israeli devices in critical infrastructure, including our water facilities, as the hackers declared that any Israeli device was "a legal target."

Water facilities continue to be central to our nation's critical infrastructure, and our water resources face many limitations. For example, as you may know, much of the American West is experiencing a historic, long-term drought that makes fortifying water supplies from vulnerabilities like adversary disruption efforts all the more important. Should a hack similar to the Pennsylvania incident occur in Arizona or other states that may lack sufficient water supply, it could disrupt operations across the region with devastating effects. Even as cities and towns work to use their water supply as efficiently as possible, water systems – especially those in smaller municipalities – may lack the infrastructure and funding to hold off large-scale cyber hacks.

Ensuring that our water systems and other critical infrastructure are protected from adversary disruption and can continue to provide clean water is vital to the economic prosperity of the United States.

In light of this reporting, we request that you answer the following questions in the briefing:

1. What action is your department currently taking to respond to this hack?
2. What are the short-, medium-, and long-term disruptions that resulted from this hack?
3. How are you coordinating with local officials and any relevant international allies and partners?

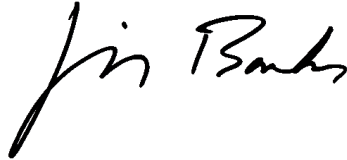
4. What additional steps are you taking to protect our nation's water facilities and other critical infrastructure from adversary disruption?

Thank you for your attention to this important issue, and we look forward to learning more about the protections that are in place and any ways that Congress can further provide support.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jim Banks  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS