

COVER

Does the U.S. need to protect its farmland from China?

Sande, meanwhile, had spent much of the past year trying to get the \$700 million Fufeng project built, arguing that it represented a unique economic boost to the small midwestern city. North Dakota produces 380 million bushels (<https://www.agweek.com/business/despite-late-planting-east-central-north-dakota-com-crop-approaching-maturity#:~:text=Average%20statewide%20>).

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

"Too many Americans view the Chinese Communist Party as a threat over there, when in reality it is a threat here," Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-SD) said at the hearing

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China's economic growth, meanwhile, has relied on this urbanization. Zoe Zongyuan Liu (<https://www.cfr.org/expert/zongyuan-zoe-liu>), a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, notes that Beijing needs local government cooperation to protect farmland and promote food security, "but the incentives to do that are not necessarily aligned" as local governments raise money by selling out land to property developers.

Compounding the issue is the fact that China's economic growth is straining its dwindling farmland. From 1975 to 2018, as China became more prosperous, its annual grain consumption

In 2012, China's then-Vice President, Xi Jinping made a point to visit Muscatine, Iowa—a place he remembered fondly from his first trip to the U.S. in 1985 as part of an agricultural delegation. Xi's trip in which he shared tea with local residents that he met decades before, marked the peak of friendly ties between China and America's heartland.

"The atmosphere was amazing" says Daniel Stein (<https://twitter.com/dai>).

Despite the large uptick in Chinese ownership and investments, suspicions about Chinese land acquisitions were fairly nonexistent until the late 2010s. The Fufeng project might have even skated through had it not been for a different controversial Chinese farm project 1,200 miles directly south of the North Dakota mill: a Texas wind farm called Blue Hills Wind (<https://apnews.com/article/texas-chinese-wind-farm-green-energy-6cd629303e8870e1942c170bc52d7bc>).

Thanks to its favorable terrain, Texas is the U.S.'s leading wind energy producer; and in 2016 a U.S. company called GH America

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Suris proposed wind farm and the Fufeng project were similar in some ways both were located within 50

"The CCP's interest in American agriculture poses an immediate threat to U.S. national security and food security" Rep Dan N

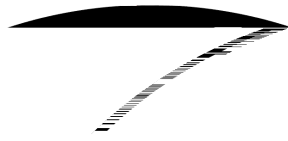


"It would b

"In recent years China has made an e

"The U.S. is a net food exporter; China is a net food importer," he says. "There is no really compelling national security reason not to engage in that trade. There's even a strong case to be made for China agricultural trade activity to continue to grow into the future. But farmland has always been a trope in democratic politics."

And an effective trope at that. Sande,^d



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