September 6, 2022

The Honorable Joseph Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW THE NOMINATION OF MR. CASEY ARROWOOD

We, the undersigned scientists of Chinese descent impacted by the Department of Justice’ false prosecutions, write to request your withdrawal of the nomination of Mr. Casey Arrowood to be the next U.S. Attorney of the Eastern District of Tennessee.

Mr. Arrowood was the lead prosecutor of Professor Anming Hu, who was falsely charged by the Department of Justice for failure to disclose his affiliation in China. Professor Hu was acquitted by Judge Thomas Varlan because "the government has failed to provide sufficient evidence from which any rational jury could find, beyond a reasonable doubt, that defendant had specific intent to defraud NASA by hiding his affiliation with [the Chinese university] from [University of Tennessee at Knoxville (UTK)]."

Mr. Arrowood’s conduct in Professor Hu’s prosecution is cause of great concerns:

- In April 2019, after FBI Agent Kujtim Sadiku briefed Mr. Arrowood that “suspicions of economic espionage [against Professor Hu] were ultimately deemed unfounded through the investigation,” Mr. Arrowood nevertheless authorized continued search for other reasons to charge Professor Hu, resulting in the failed prosecution.
- After the April 2019 briefing, knowing that no evidence of espionage against Professor Hu had been found, Mr. Arrowood joined Agent Sadiku in multiple presentations to UTK faculty and administrators, falsely stating that Professor Hu was a Chinese military operative.

3 Letter by Professor Anming Hu and his family to President Joe Biden calling for the rescission of the nomination of Mr. Arrowood (2022/08/19). https://bit.ly/3wizTum
• At the June 2021 jury trial of Professor Hu, testimonies showed that Professor Hu did not try to hide his Chinese affiliations and that UTK indicated to Professor Hu that NASA’s China Funding Restriction was not applicable to UTK faculty.\(^2\) Despite the evidence, Mr. Arrowood continued to accuse Professor Hu of intentionally hiding his Chinese affiliations to gain access to the NASA contracts.\(^4\)
• After a mistrial was declared on June 16, 2021, despite the growing concerns of alleged misconduct of the FBI exposed by the trial of Professor Hu, Mr. Arrowood decided to retry Professor Hu, exacerbating the damage to the public trust and confidence in the judicial system.

Prosecutorial misconduct ruins the lives of innocent people. We know it from our personal experiences of being falsely prosecuted by the government.

• Dr. Gang Chen was arrested on January 14, 2021, charged by the DOJ for failing to disclose activities in China to the Department of Energy in a grant proposal and progress reports. The charge was dropped by the government on January 20, 2022.\(^5\)
• Dr. Qing Wang was arrested on May 13, 2020, charged by the DOJ for failing to disclose his affiliations and grants in China to the NIH in grant applications and progress reports. The charge was dropped by the government on July 15, 2021.\(^6\)
• Dr. Ning Xi was arrested on February 15, 2018, charged by the DOJ for defrauding Michigan State University (MSU) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) with false travel expense claims. The charge was dropped by the government on July 10, 2019.\(^7\)
• Dr. Xiaoxing Xi was arrested on May 21, 2015, charged by the DOJ for sharing U.S. company technology with China. The charge was dropped by the government on September 11, 2015.\(^8\)

Mr. Arrowood should be held accountable for his conduct in Professor Hu’s false prosecution, not promoted to a leadership position that will likely cause injustice affecting more innocent citizens and residents.

On August 19, 2022, Professor Hu and his family wrote to you requesting the withdrawal of the nomination of Mr. Casey Arrowood to be the next U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee.\(^3\) We strongly support his request.

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Yours Sincerely,

Gang Chen  
Professor  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

Qing Wang  
Professor  
Huazhong University of Science and Technology*

Ning Xi  
Professor  
University of Hong Kong*

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