

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

January 3, 2023

Montana Board of Regents
P.O. Box 203201
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Regents,

On December 16, 2022, I issued a memo (attached) to Montana's chief information officer and executive agency directors prohibiting the use of TikTok on state equipment and for state business to protect Montanans' private, sensitive information and state data from the Chinese Communist Party.

The ability of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to spy on Americans using TikTok is well documented. Using or even downloading TikTok poses a massive security threat. Data of TikTok users have been repeatedly accessed by the CCP, and TikTok will not commit to stopping it. In fact, one privacy researcher indicates TikTok can monitor a user's keystrokes, potentially exposing user information like credit card numbers and passwords.

Recently, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation raised national security concerns about TikTok operations and CCP, warning the app is controlled by "a government that doesn't share our values, and that has a mission that's very much at odds with what's in the best interests of the United States."

Given the risk use of TikTok poses to our public universities and our students, I request the Board of Regents support efforts by the Commissioner of Higher Education to prevent the use of TikTok by the Montana University System (MUS) and its campuses and while connected to the MUS network. Together, we can defend the State of Montana and Montanans against threats to our security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Gianforte".

Greg Gianforte
Governor