

**Chairman Gallagher on South Border**

*10.8.23*

*as prepared for delivery*

---

With the single-minded focus of a military campaign, the Chinese Communist Party is pursuing power in Latin America.

Between 2005 and 2021, the CCP lent over \$130 billion to Latin American countries for infrastructure projects, often with explicit provisions that contracts go to CCP aligned firms.

Thus far, CCP-linked companies control more than 40 ports across the region, including both ends of the Panama canal — and Huawei dominates local telecom systems.

The CCP's ultimate agenda is not markets or profits but political control.

This year, Honduras joined El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic in terminating its diplomatic recognition of Taiwan.

The CCP has even taken steps to secure a military base in Cuba, just 90 miles South of U.S. Soil.

To defend our sovereignty and national security, we must counter this malign CCP influence in our hemisphere. Otherwise, we may wake up to discover that even the crisis at our southern border has been eclipsed by the threat to its south.