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House of Representatives

COMMENDING MONTANA PHOTOJOURNALIST LARRY MAYER FOR UNCOVERING THE CHINESE SPY BALLOON

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. ROSENDALE of Montana. Mr. Speaker, when a Chinese balloon invaded Montana's airspace, the Biden Administration intended to keep the American people in the dark. But what President Biden didn't count on was the diligent work of Billings Gazette photographer Larry Mayer.

Larry pointed his lens skyward when federal regulators shut down Billings Logan International Airport and captured one of the first public images of a strange object floating in American skies.

Larry may not have known it at the time, but by following his instincts, he uncovered a national security risk from Communist China that Biden and his allies had not disclosed to Congress or the American people.

China remains one of the greatest foreign threats to American national security. It's inexcusable that the administration failed to inform the public when this threat was identified and even more alarming that the President didn't take steps to prevent such a breach of American sovereignty.

The government is responsible for ensuring our safety, security, and privacy. But thankfully, when

the administration failed to take this threat seriously, Larry Mayer was there.

Larry's images of the Chinese spy balloon represent the best qualities of American journalism. By uncovering this inexcusable lapse in our nation's security, Larry has proven that even seemingly innocuous situations can have much more serious implications.

Larry Mayer's dedication to the job is the definition of patriotism in action. His work uncovering this disappointing failure by President Biden allows me and countless other public officials to hold the administration accountable.

Americans everywhere owe Larry a debt of gratitude for documenting this dangerous violation of American airspace. I hope all will join me in commending Larry Mayer's actions, and it is my pleasure to acknowledge him in the United States House of Representatives.

HON. MATT ROSENDALE, SR.

Member of Congress