

May 10, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Support the U.S. Merit System Protection Board's Decision on Sherry Chen case

Dear Secretary Ross,

On April 23, 2018, the U.S. Merit System Protection Board (MSPB) released a 135-page [decision](#) (Docket Number CH-0752-17-0028-I-1), ruling the Department of Commerce (DOC) did not have cause to fire Sherry Chen and ordered the agency to (1) reinstate her employment at the National Weather Service, and (2) pay her back pay plus benefits.

In the MSPB decision, Chief Administrative Judge Michele Schroeder agreed that Ms. Chen was the "victim of a gross injustice", and stated that

- "The agency removed Ms. Chen from employment after a seven-year stellar career with NWS. During her employment, there were no instances of disciplinary action relating to performance or conduct. To the contrary, Ms. Chen's peers and supervisors respected her", and
- The DOC officials handling the case "seemed more concerned about being right than doing the right thing", and "based on the unyielding nature of their testimony, I would not have been surprised if they rejected that  $2 + 2 = 4$ ".

We applaud the MSPB and Judge Schroeder for reviewing the case thoroughly, making the right decision in favor of Sherry Chen and rejecting the false allegations against her by the DOC officials of the previous administration. The MSPB decision was widely [reported](#) recently.

It is imperative that DOC comply with the MSPB decision and reinstate Ms. Chen's employment immediately, to correct the wrongdoing she has endured in the past few years, to recover the reputation of the DOC, and to avoid wasting more tax payer dollars in a lengthy process that a DOC appeal may cause.

Sherry Chen is a loyal citizen and award winning scientist that worked at the National Weather Service (NWS) in Wilmington, Ohio. Her work was used to predict flooding along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and [avoid loss of lives and property damage](#) when she was wrongfully arrested and accused of espionage in 2014. Her life was turned upside down, only to see all charges against her dropped a week before trial in 2015, and yet her job terminated by DOC in 2016 based on the same wrongful accusations. Ms. Chen has been unable to work at NWS and contribute her talent to our nation since October 2014. NWS has been unable to fill the expertise gap in her absence.

Forty-eight members of Congress, the United States Commission on Civil Rights and many community organizations have raised concerns with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and DOC and called for a full investigation into Ms. Chen's case. Her ordeal received wide [media coverage](#), including CBS 60 Minutes, Huffington Post, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post and many others. The MSPB's decision is the result of a two-day [hearing](#) after a 13-month deliberation by the judge.

I respectfully request you review the MSPB's well-reasoned decision, and

- Comply with the MSPB's decision immediately and allow Ms. Chen to contribute her talent to our nation.
- Ask DOC Inspector General to conduct a full investigation into the handling of Ms. Chen's case for possible racial bias, abuse of power, violation of due process, and lack of efficiency.

If you are available, I would like to meet with you at your convenience to provide a detailed update. Please kindly let me know your availability. More information about Sherry Chen's case can be found at [www.sherrychendefensefund.org](http://www.sherrychendefensefund.org).

Please let me know if you have any questions, and I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Wenkui Wang*

Wenkui (Vincent) Wang

Chair, Board of Directors  
Ohio Chinese American Association (OCAA)  
vincent.wang@ohiocaa.org  
765-409-2585  
ohiocaa.org