

Questions for the Record from Mr. Ben Cline for Aurelien Portuese

“Anti-American Antitrust: How Foreign Governments Target U.S. Businesses”

December 16, 2025

1. You've argued that ex-ante regulations, whether in Korea or the EU, are about protecting less efficient competitors, not about helping consumers. You point out that common practices like data integration and bundling that regulators attack are standard business practices that enhance consumer benefits. When Korea goes after American platforms for these practices, who really benefits?
 - a. Follow-Up: And what do Korean consumers lose when their government protects Korean companies from having to compete on equal terms?

2. Korean President Lee Jae-myung's nominee to head the Fair Trade Commission, the agency conducting these dawn raids and threatening American executives with prison, is an economist named Joo Byeong-ki. Last year, he wrote an op-ed where he said, "Trump's tariff war is nothing more than a shallow ploy to mask the deep-seated ills of American society and to solve internal problems by emptying the pockets of other countries and foreign corporations." Does this give you any insight into Korean motivations here?
 - a. Follow-Up: Are we looking at economic policy, or are we looking at ideologically driven targeting of American companies?