

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<https://oversight.house.gov>

April 14, 2025

Mr. Stephen Ehikian
Acting Administrator
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Acting Administrator Ehikian:

We write to express our concern about the General Services Administration's (GSA) intent to dispose of critical and historical federally owned property without regard for federal agencies' ability to carry out their missions or consideration for proper stewardship of federal assets. The management and disposal of federal property is subject to a variety of federal laws and regulations to ensure that agencies have the resources necessary to achieve their statutory missions while maximizing taxpayer resources. Among other requirements, GSA must circulate a notice of availability of the property to other federal agencies and make the property available for public benefit conveyance for homelessness assistance. If the property is not disposed of through public benefit conveyance, GSA may then dispose of the property via a competitive sale to the public.¹ We urge you to provide detailed information responsive to the requests included in this letter in a spirit of transparency about the Trump Administration's posture toward these core national assets.

On Tuesday, March 4, 2025, GSA issued a press release stating,

As part of our strategy to optimize the GSA portfolio, [the Public Buildings Service] will be engaging in market research and customer agency feedback regarding the potential disposition strategies for non-core assets, and will consider current use, occupancy, cost of agency relocation, and local market conditions when assessing disposition.²

¹ Government Accountability Office, *Federal Real Property: GSA Could Further Support Agencies' Post-Pandemic Planning for Office Space Use*, GAO-22-105105 (Sept. 7, 2022) (online at www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-105105) and Congressional Research Service, *Disposal of Unneeded Federal buildings: Legislative Proposals in the 114th Congress*, R44377 (updated July 13, 2016) (online at <https://crs.gov/Reports/R44377>).

² *Statement Regarding GSA's Disposal of Non-Core Assets*, General Services Administration (Mar. 05, 2025) (online at www.gsa.gov/about-us/newsroom/news-releases/statement-regarding-gsas-disposal-of-noncore-assets-03042025).

However, in that same release, GSA announced its intention to dispose of more than 440 federally owned properties deemed “not core to government operations” apparently without consulting agencies about the extent to which the properties were occupied or needed for government functions.”³ In response to inclusion of its headquarters building on GSA’s list, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) distributed an agency-wide email stating, “CMS was not aware this was happening, and we didn’t submit or approve any of our current office locations being on this list.” The agency apologized to its employees for “the additional and unnecessary stress and anxiety this may have caused.”⁴

GSA has since released a significantly smaller list of assets that have been identified for a process termed “accelerated disposition,” while withholding details about agency plans for the larger list of properties previously listed for disposal.⁵ GSA has failed to communicate any information about (1) the extent to which the “accelerated disposition” process adheres to relevant laws and regulations, (2) the process by which the buildings currently listed for disposition were identified, or (3) the process through which GSA intends to solicit and evaluate offers to purchase these properties. On April 8, the DOGE account on X.com touted the sale of 13 buildings since the beginning of President Trump’s administration on January 20, 2025, but did not provide the American public with information on how these sales were organized or the extent to which their interests were considered.⁶ The sale of at least one of these buildings—an Ogden, Utah building sold to the city of Ogden and previously home to the U.S. Forest Service—had been planned since December of 2024, and thus likely underwent the standard process for disposal.⁷ However, given the carelessness with which the DOGE team has approached other government transactions, it is reasonable for members of the public to question whether these property disposals were conducted in accordance with applicable law.⁸

Additional developments during your leadership have further diminished public trust in GSA’s handling of our nation’s assets. On February 3, 2025, while GSA was developing plans to dispose of hundreds of federally owned buildings, your brother, Mr. Brad Ehikian, reportedly

³ *Id.*

⁴ See, e.g., *How 443 Federal Properties were Targeted for Sale, then Suddenly Weren’t*, Washington Post (Mar. 5, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/03/05/federal-buildings-sale-trump-gsa-chaos/).

⁵ General Services Administration *Assets Identified for Accelerated Disposition* (online at www.gsa.gov/real-estate/real-estate-services/real-property-disposition/assets-identified-for-accelerated-disposition) (accessed Apr. 10, 2025).

⁶ Department of Government Efficiency (@DOGE), X.com (Apr. 8, 2025) (online at <https://x.com/DOGE/status/1909784566794952788>).

⁷ *Ogden City Purchases Historic Downtown Building for \$3.6M—Here’s What It Plans to Do With It*, ABC4.com, (Apr. 4, 2025) (online at www.abc4.com/news/northern-utah/ogden-purchases-historic-building/).

⁸ See, for example, *DOGE Secretly Changes Its Website After Being Caught in Huge Lies*, New Republic (Feb. 5, 2025) (online at <https://newrepublic.com/post/191973/doge-changes-website-savings-mistakes-lies>); *Here Are The Biggest DOGE Hoaxes and Inaccuracies—As \$8 Million Canceled ICE Contract Listed At \$8 Billion*, Forbes (Feb. 19, 2025) (online at www.forbes.com/sites/conormurray/2025/02/19/here-are-the-biggest-doge-hoaxes-and-inaccuracies-as-8-million-canceled-ice-contract-listed-at-8-billion/); and *DOGE is Operating Within a Bubble of Lawlessness*, The Hill (Mar. 5, 2025) (online at <https://thehill.com/opinion/white-house/5175723-doge-is-operating-within-a-bubble-of-lawlessness/>).

proposed to purchase a federally owned 17-acre property in Menlo Park, California, for half of its previously estimated value.⁹ As you know, federal ethics regulations clearly state that federal employees should avoid even the appearance that they are violating ethical standards or laws.¹⁰ The prospect that family members of Administration officials would seek to benefit financially at the expense of taxpayers is unacceptable and destructive to the public's trust.

Far from facilitating improved service, under your leadership GSA has instead gratuitously targeted agencies that work to keep Americans safe and provide needed services. For example, despite no articulated plan for relocating agency tenants, GSA originally proposed disposing of the Dallas building that houses the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Protective Service (FPS).¹¹ As you know, FPS is critical in protecting Americans and federal facilities against threats. For instance, in 2019, three FPS officers stopped 22-year-old Brian Isaack Clyde from entering and harming the more than 300 federal workers inside the Earle Cabell Federal Building in Dallas.¹² GSA also proposed disposing of the A. Maceo Smith Federal Building, including the Dallas office of the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, which administers federal job training and worker dislocation programs.¹³ Confusion and uncertainty about the status of agency facilities will only make the important work of these agencies more challenging.

When you were appointed as acting administrator, you stated that, "moving forward, GSA will be laser-focused on driving an efficient government and enabling our sister agencies to provide better service to taxpayers at lower costs."¹⁴ However, the actions GSA has taken since January 20, 2025, have created mass confusion across federal, state, and local governments and have served as a perfect example of the self-defeating, self-enriching, DOGE-inspired approach

⁹ In 2022, GSA attempted to sell this property for \$120 million and plans to open a new round of public bidding next month with a minimum bid beginning at \$85 million. See *Brother of Trump's GSA Leader Tried to Buy Prime Federal Property*, Washington Post (Mar. 13, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/2025/03/13/gsa-administrator-brother-property-menlo-park/) and General Services Administration, *Rockaway Grove*, Real Estate (online at www.gsa.gov/real-estate/real-estate-services/real-property-disposition/property-sales/rockaway-grove?gsaredirect=rockawaygrove) (accessed Mar. 25, 2025).

¹⁰ 5 C.F.R. 2635.101(b)(14).

¹¹ *Three Dallas Buildings on Federal Chopping Block*, Dallas Express (Mar. 6, 2025) (online at <https://dallasexpress.com/city/three-dallas-buildings-on-federal-chopping-block/>).

¹² *Dallas Gunman Killed by Federal Officers After Opening Fire on Courthouse, Officials Say*, CBS News (June 17, 2019) (online at www.cbsnews.com/news/dallas-shooting-suspect-brian-isaack-clyde-shot-dead-by-police-earl-cabell-federal-building/).

¹³ *Three Dallas Buildings on Federal Chopping Block*, Dallas Express (Mar. 6, 2025) (online at <https://dallasexpress.com/city/three-dallas-buildings-on-federal-chopping-block/>) and Employment and Training Administration, *About Us* (online at www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/about) (accessed Apr. 11, 2025).

¹⁴ Press Release, General Services Administration, *Stephen Ehikian Appointed Acting Administrator and Deputy Administrator of the General Services Administration* (Jan. 22, 2025) (online at www.gsa.gov/about-us/newsroom/news-releases/stephen-ehikian-appointed-acting-administrator-and-deputy-administrator-of-gsa-01222025).

to the dismantlement of our government that typifies many of the major initiatives of the Trump Administration.¹⁵

Given these concerns, we request that you provide the following information by April 28, 2025:

1. A full and complete list, including descriptions, of the steps GSA is taking to comply with relevant federal laws and regulations when disposing of federal real property, including:
 - a. Requirements that real property must be disposed of in the most economical manner consistent with the best interests of the government;¹⁶
 - b. Requirements that real property be screened for possible transfer to other federal agencies;¹⁷
 - c. Requirements that real property be screened for disposal via public benefit conveyance for homelessness assistance or other public benefit conveyance;¹⁸ and
 - d. Requirements that real property not conveyed for public or federal benefit be sold for fair market value.¹⁹
2. All guidance and policies relating to GSA communication with agency heads and personnel regarding proposed property disposal, consolidation, tenant relocation, and agency rights regarding those processes.
3. All communications from January 20, 2025, to March 4, 2025, between GSA and other federal agencies regarding the more than 440 properties listed for disposal pursuant to the March 4, 2025, announcement from GSA.

¹⁵ For example, see *The Six Dallas-Area Office Leases on DOGE's Chopping Block*, D Magazine (Mar. 6, 2025) (online at www.dmagazine.com/commercial-real-estate/2025/03/the-six-dallas-area-office-leases-on-doges-chopping-block/); *Trump Wants to Offload Hundreds of Government Buildings. These in DFW are On The List*, Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Mar. 5, 2025) (online at www.yahoo.com/news/trump-wants-offload-hundreds-government-212732905.html); and *Here's a Map of the For-Sale Government Properties the GSA Pulled From Its Website*, Wired (Mar. 5, 2025) (online at www.wired.com/story/map-for-sale-government-properties-gsa/).

¹⁶ 41 C.F.R. § 102-75.250.

¹⁷ 41 C.F.R. § 102-75.1220.

¹⁸ See Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, Pub. L. No. 100-77, 101 Stat. 482 (1987), as amended, and as renamed McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act by Pub. L. No. 106-400, 114 Stat. 1675 (2000) (codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. § 11411) and 41 C.F.R. § 102-75.350.

¹⁹ See 40 U.S.C. § 545(b)(8), 41 C.F.R. § 102-75.880(d), 41 C.F.R. § 102-75.935, and 40 U.S.C. § 545(a)(2).

4. All communications on or after March 4, 2025, between GSA and other federal agencies regarding the 440 properties listed for disposal pursuant to the March 4, 2025, announcement from GSA.
5. A full and complete list of properties currently in the disposal process or planned for disposal, along with the following information for each property:
 - a. A full accounting of current tenants of the property and plans for relocating those tenants;
 - b. All documents and communications with agency heads and personnel regarding disposition of the property and proposed relocation of current tenants;
 - c. All documents and communications with potential buyers;
 - d. All documents and communications related to known relationships of potential buyers with GSA personnel or other federal government employees, including special government employees; and
 - e. The current status of each property with regard to the statutory requirements governing real property disposition as outlined in request 1.
6. A full and complete list of federal real property that has been sold, conveyed, or otherwise disposed of since January 20, 2025, with the following information for each property:
 - a. The full name of the recipient/buyer;
 - b. Documentation on the transaction including information such as purchase price and other terms of the transaction; and
 - c. All documents and communications related to the consideration of and compliance with statutory requirements governing real property disposition for each property sold, conveyed, or otherwise disposed of.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives, has jurisdiction over federal property disposal, and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. If you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.


Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Ranking Member



Jasmine Crockett
Vice Ranking Member



Melanie A. Stansbury
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Delivering on
Government Efficiency

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman