

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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February 12, 2024

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Comer:

Last week, you announced that, as part of your ongoing impeachment inquiry—which, over the course of more than twelve months, has included tens of thousands of pages of records and dozens of hours of witness interviews but failed to identify any evidence of wrongdoing by President Biden—the Committee would be conducting its 11th transcribed interview, with Anthony “Tony” Bobulinski.¹

You made assurances that “100% of what Tony Bobulinski said has proven to be true” and described Mr. Bobulinski as “the one solid guy [in Hunter Biden’s orbit] that tried to do the right thing and was honest.”²

However, publicly available information about Mr. Bobulinski, including his own contradictory statements, his mysterious ties to the Trump campaign, his refusal to engage with the Committee’s Democratic staff, and his problematic personal finances, raise significant concerns about his truthfulness, credibility, and motivations. If you are intent on looking past these glaring issues to call Mr. Bobulinski as a witness, you at least have a duty to ensure the Committee has all the evidence it needs to evaluate the reliability of Mr. Bobulinski’s testimony, including by calling additional witnesses who can speak to his ties to the Trump Administration and campaign and shed light on his authentic motivations in this matter.

In October 2020, less than three weeks before the presidential election, Mr. Bobulinski, together with help from Arthur Schwartz, a New York-based public relations professional and informal advisor and friend to Donald Trump Jr.; Eric Herschmann, a Senior Advisor to then-

¹ See Letter from Chairman James Comer, Committee on Oversight and Accountability, to Mr. Stefan Passantino, counsel to Mr. Anthony Bobulinski (Nov. 8, 2023).

² Rep. James Comer (@repjamescomer), X (Nov. 6, 2023) (online at <https://twitter.com/repjamescomer/status/1721708875907313941?s=46>); Rep. James Comer (@repjamescomer), X (Feb. 2, 2024) (online at <https://twitter.com/RepJamesComer/status/1753434418138513640?s=20>).

President Trump who had previously served as an attorney on his impeachment team; and Stefan Passantino, Mr. Bobulinski's attorney and the former Deputy White House Counsel in charge of ethics, spoke with a journalist from the *Wall Street Journal*, Michael Bender, claiming to have "firsthand knowledge" that Joe Biden had been involved in SinoHawk Holdings, a short-lived business venture Mr. Bobulinski, Hunter Biden, James Biden, and two other business partners had in 2017.³

After reviewing Mr. Bobulinski's claims and the materials he provided, as well as conducting its own due diligence, the *Wall Street Journal* dismissed Mr. Bobulinski's claims outright, concluding that the "corporate records" provided by Mr. Bobulinski "show[ed] no role for Joe Biden" in SinoHawk Holdings, which was "set up in 2017 after Mr. Biden left the vice presidency and before his presidential campaign."⁴ In addition, the *Journal* noted that the "[t]ext messages and emails related to the venture that were provided to the Journal by Mr. Bobulinski, mainly from the spring and summer of 2017, don't show either Hunter Biden or James Biden discussing a role for Joe Biden in the venture."⁵

Other conservative news outlets came to the same conclusion regarding the lack of credibility of Mr. Bobulinski's claims. For example, *Fox News* reported that "emails from Bobulinski...don't show that the elder Biden had business dealings with SinoHawk Holdings, or took any payments from them or the Chinese."⁶ *Fox News* added that "according to separate emails obtained by Fox News, Bobulinski states there are no other members besides Hunter Biden, Jim Biden, Rob Walker, James Gilliar and Anthony Bobulinski, regarding the shareholding structure."⁷

The Trump campaign, however, ensured that Mr. Bobulinski had a platform to air his accusations against President Biden. Then-President Trump invited Mr. Bobulinski to attend the final presidential debate in Nashville, Tennessee, on October 22, 2020, as his guest. Hours before the debate, the Trump White House cleared the private plane carrying Mr. Bobulinski to land in Nashville, despite security measures that had closed off the city's airspace, and arranged

³ Michael Bender, *Frankly, We Did Win This Election: The Inside Story of How Trump Lost* (2021); *Trump Had One Last Story to Sell. The Wall Street Journal Wouldn't Buy It*, *New York Times* (Oct. 25, 2020) (online at www.nytimes.com/2020/10/25/business/media/hunter-biden-wall-street-journal-trump.html); C-Span, Tony Bobulinski Statement on Hunter Biden (Oct. 22, 2020) (online at www.c-span.org/video/?477307-1/tony-bobulinski-statement-hunter-biden); *Exclusive: Trump's Former White House Ethics Lawyer Told Cassidy Hutchinson to Give Misleading Testimony to January 6 Committee, Sources Say*, *CNN* (Dec. 21, 2022) (online at www.cnn.com/2022/12/20/politics/trump-ethics-lawyer-passantino-cassidy-hutchinson-misleading-testimony-jan-6/index.html).

⁴ *Hunter Biden's Ex-Business Partner Alleges Father Knew About Venture*, *Wall Street Journal* (Oct. 23, 2020) (online at www.wsj.com/articles/hunter-bidens-ex-business-partner-alleges-father-knew-about-venture-11603421247); *Trump Had One Last Story to Sell. The Wall Street Journal Wouldn't Buy It*, *New York Times* (Oct. 25, 2020) (online at www.nytimes.com/2020/10/25/business/media/hunter-biden-wall-street-journal-trump.html).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Ex-Hunter Biden Associate's Records Don't Show Proof of Biden Business Relationship Amid Unanswered Questions*, *Fox News* (Oct. 23, 2020) (online at www.foxnews.com/politics/hunter-biden-tony-bobulinski-joe-biden-unanswered-questions).

⁷ *Id.*

for Mr. Bobulinski to give a press conference. Mr. Bobulinski coordinated his press conference with top aides to Mr. Trump, including senior campaign adviser Jason Miller, who was eager to place Mr. Bobulinski in front of reporters.⁸

Even at his own press conference, however, Mr. Bobulinski's claims began to unravel. For example, Mr. Bobulinski conceded he never discussed business dealings with Joe Biden. Instead, Mr. Bobulinski explained that his conclusion from his two short meetings with Joe Biden was that Joe Biden simply had a "high-level" awareness of his son's business venture.⁹

Mr. Bobulinski's claims were also directly contradicted by his business partners to the SinoHawk deal. One partner, James Gilliar, was unequivocal when he told the *Wall Street Journal*, "I am unaware of any involvement at anytime of the former Vice President."¹⁰ Another partner, Rob Walker, likewise refuted Mr. Bobulinski's claims, including in his transcribed interview before our Committee, in which he stated in no uncertain terms, "To be clear, President Biden, while in office or as a private citizen, was never involved in any business activities we pursued."¹¹ In a previous interview with agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Internal Revenue Service, Mr. Walker dismissed the suggestion of Joe Biden's involvement in the venture as "wishful thinking," and agreed with the agents' characterization of the idea as something as farfetched as "unicorns and rainbows."¹²

A week later, Mr. Bobulinski attended a Trump campaign rally in Rome, Georgia, on November 1, 2020. According to Cassidy Hutchinson, assistant to then-Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, during that rally Mr. Bobulinski had an "out of sight" meeting with Mr. Meadows. Ms. Hutchinson explains that Secret Service agents formed a perimeter of vehicles to create a private area for Mr. Meadows and Mr. Bobulinski to meet on the sidelines of the rally. Mr. Bobulinski, who wore a "ski mask" to conceal his identity met with Mr. Meadows who "hand[ed] Tony [Bobulinski] what appeared to be a folded sheet of paper or small envelope."¹³

⁸ *Letter From Air Force One: The Mad Dash to The Finish Line*, Christian Science Monitor (Oct. 26, 2020) (online at www.csmonitor.com/USA/Politics/2020/1026/Letter-from-Air-Force-One-the-mad-dash-to-the-finish-line); *Who Is Tony Bobulinski? What We Know About Hunter Biden's Business Associate*, Newsweek (Oct. 20, 2020) (online at www.newsweek.com/who-tony-bobulinski-what-we-know-about-hunter-bidens-business-associate-1541520).

⁹ C-Span, *Tony Bobulinski Statement on Hunter Biden* (Oct. 22, 2020) (online at www.c-span.org/video/?477307-1/tony-bobulinski-statement-hunter-biden); See Append. B, Exhibit 400A: Tony Bobulinski FBI FD-302 Interview Memorandum, Staff Report, Committee on Ways & Means, *Report on Materials Presented to the Committee on Ways and Means Under 26 U.S.C. § 6103* (Sept. 27, 2023) (online at https://gop-waysandmeans.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/WM-Staff-Report_09.27.2023.pdf).

¹⁰ *Hunter Biden's Ex-Business Partner Alleges Father Knew About Venture*, Wall Street Journal (Oct. 23, 2020) (online at www.wsj.com/articles/hunter-bidens-ex-business-partner-alleges-father-knew-about-venture-11603421247).

¹¹ Committee on Oversight and Accountability and Committee on the Judiciary, Transcribed Interview of John Robinson Walker (Jan. 26, 2024).

¹² Federal Bureau of Investigation and Internal Revenue Service Investigators, Interview with John Robinson Walker (Dec. 8, 2020).

¹³ Cassidy Hutchinson, *Enough* (2023).

We do not know what Mr. Meadows gave Mr. Bobulinski or what prompted this secretive and unusual meeting shrouded in disguise.

In an interview with Sean Hannity in November 2022, Mr. Bobulinski revealed that he was assisting you and Rep. Jim Jordan, then the incoming Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, behind the scenes, claiming to have “provided extensive amount of facts” about the Biden family to your offices. Seemingly aware of updates in the case, he urged the American people to “just be patient” because you and Chairman Jordan “are very focused” and “are working really hard” to ensure that these facts will come to light.¹⁴ By contrast, Mr. Bobulinski has refused to speak with the Committee’s Democratic staff, despite multiple requests sent to his counsel.

About three weeks ago, for the first time, your staff provided my staff with documents produced by Mr. Bobulinski. These documents are highly questionable. For example, they include photographs of a broken cell phone, which presumably belongs to Mr. Bobulinski, showing what purport to be text conversations with various individuals, including Hunter Biden, Mr. Gilliar, and others. However, there are no dates or timestamps on a large number of these photographs, many of the photos present incomplete or cut-off messages, and there is no way to determine whether subsequent photographs are part of an ongoing text thread or are simply cherry-picked and unrelated messages.

This is not the first time Mr. Bobulinski has tried to provide cherry-picked and selective information. The day after his press conference hosted by the Trump campaign, on October 23, 2020, Mr. Bobulinski provided a voluntary interview with the FBI on October 23, 2020. During this interview, he refused to allow the FBI to make forensic copies of three cell phones that he claimed contained text messages, emails, and other information directly connecting Joe Biden to Hunter Biden’s business activities, insisting on showing the agents only select, carefully hand-picked documents and messages.¹⁵

Mr. Bobulinski’s blatant partisanship and repeated pattern of making partial and selective disclosures raise troubling concerns about his veracity and motivation. These concerns are exacerbated by the fact that he experienced significant financial difficulties at the time he decided to become involved with the Trump campaign in 2020. In the months before his appearance as then-President Trump’s guest at the presidential debate, Mr. Bobulinski was sued by a company with ties to China for over \$600,000 in a dispute that stemmed from a failed investment unrelated to his work with Hunter Biden.¹⁶ In February 2021, the company, China Branding Group, prevailed and a federal court issued a judgment against Mr. Bobulinski for the full amount.¹⁷ Mr. Bobulinski appealed the case, dragging it out for years, until it was resolved

¹⁴ *Hannity*, Fox News (Nov. 17, 2022) (online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=rm6uh2Sa5tA).

¹⁵ *Id.*


¹⁶ Complaint for Recognition of Foreign Money Judgment, *China Branding Group Limited v. Tony Bobulinski* (July 28, 2020) C.D. Cal (No. 2:20-cv-06759).

¹⁷ Judgment, *China Branding Group Limited v. Tony Bobulinski* (Feb. 18, 2021) C.D. Cal (No. 2:20-cv-06759).

in favor of China Branding Group in January 2024 with a U.S. District Court ordering Mr. Bobulinski to pay the company nearly \$500,000.¹⁸ In addition, a lawsuit filed in 2021 by a former employer of Mr. Bobulinski indicates that from 2016 through 2018, a period of time that overlaps with his time engaged in the SinoHawk venture, Mr. Bobulinski struggled to repay the company a sizable sum, over \$1 million, that he borrowed from the company years earlier.¹⁹

Collectively, these facts are worthy of extended investigation to understand Mr. Bobulinski's personal motives and adequately evaluate the credibility of his allegations. If you insist on moving forward with Mr. Bobulinski's transcribed interview despite this large field of giant red flags, it is imperative that you ensure the Committee has access to all the information needed to assess Mr. Bobulinski's claims. This means, at a minimum, requiring individuals such as Mark Meadows, Arthur Schwartz, Eric Herschmann, and Jason Miller—who have direct knowledge on how Mr. Bobulinski came to be involved with persons in the Trump Administration and campaign—to come before the Committee to shed some light on Mr. Bobulinski's puzzling and deeply suspicious motivations.

Sincerely,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

¹⁸ Amended Judgment, *China Branding Group Limited v. Tony Bobulinski* (Jan. 11, 2024) C.D. Cal (No. 2:20-cv-06759).

¹⁹ Complaint (May 26, 2021), *YDS Investment Company, LLC, vs. Anthony "Tony" Bobulinski*, Cal. Super. (No. 21STCV19854).