

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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February 22, 2025

Mr. Charles Ezell
Acting Director
Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20415

Dear Acting Director Ezell:

I write with immediate concern regarding an email that your office sent to federal employees today and its relationship with Elon Musk's threat to dismiss any employees who do not respond. This threat is illegal, reckless, and yet another example of the cruel and arbitrary chaos Mr. Musk is inflicting on the people's government and its dedicated public servants. You must immediately clarify that federal employees' nonresponse to this ill-conceived, weekend email does not constitute resignation.

This afternoon, Elon Musk tweeted that "all federal employees will shortly receive an email requesting to understand what they got done last week. Failure to respond will be taken as a resignation."¹ Just hours later, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) sent an email instructing federal employees to "please reply to this email with approx. 5 bullets of what [they] accomplished last week and cc [their] manager."²

The capricious dismissal threatened in Mr. Musk's post is illegal and cannot be tolerated. Mr. Musk's post is an insult to federal workers and shows that he lacks a basic understanding that many federal workers will not be receiving this email in time to respond by the deadline as they may be away from their secure workstation or on medical leave. He also, disturbingly, appears to be unaware that many federal employees are locked out of their systems due to the Department of Government Efficiency's (DOGE) ongoing intrusion into federal IT infrastructure. This latest threat leveled by Mr. Musk only makes federal workers' jobs more difficult as they attempt to maintain continuity of services for the American people despite daily attempts by DOGE to undermine their work.

¹ Elon Musk (@elonmusk), X (Feb. 22, 2025) (online at <https://x.com/elonmusk/status/1893386883444437415>).

² *Borrowing from a Tactic at X, Elon Musk Tells Government Workers to Detail Their Workweek or Face Termination*, New York Times (Feb. 22, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/02/22/us/politics/elon-musk-email-federal-employees.html)

Mr. Charles Ezell

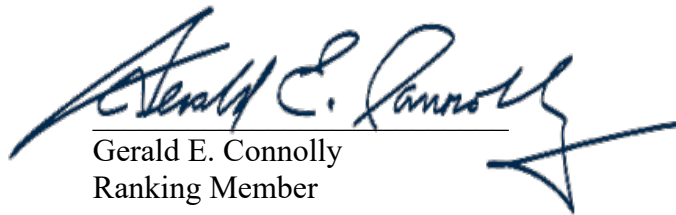
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Today's actions are a clear attempt by the Trump Administration to force the departure of dedicated civil servants who resoundingly refused to take the bait on Mr. Musk's scam "deferred resignation" offer. Federal workers are committed to serving the American people.

To this day, despite repeated inquiries from Congress, we do not know Mr. Musk's official status in government. I urge you to immediately inform federal workers that his missives do not constitute official orders from OPM. You must also make clear his threat of dismissal due to nonresponse to OPM's email is invalid.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. The Committee also has legislative jurisdiction over federal personnel and federal information systems. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman