

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

March 19, 2025

Ms. Amy Gleason  
Acting Administrator  
U.S. Department of Government Efficiency  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
1650 17th St NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Acting Administrator Gleason:

I write regarding substantial conflicts of interest concerns in the Trump Administration, specifically related to the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and Elon Musk. On his first day in office, President Donald J. Trump issued an executive order establishing DOGE, through which his Administration is dismantling our government.<sup>1</sup> DOGE is making sweeping changes all while operating in secret, with no accountability, and in ways that the courts have repeatedly found to be unlawful.<sup>2</sup> DOGE is not only concealing its work, but also hiding from the American people who is performing this work and, critically, what conflicts of interest they may have. Recent reporting indicates that members of the DOGE team have continued to work in lucrative private sector positions, including with companies that contract with the federal government, while serving in their government roles.<sup>3</sup> This presents unprecedented conflicts of interest that jeopardize the ethical use of taxpayer funds and further erode Americans' faith in their government. To understand the extent of these conflicts, I request that you provide information on the individuals involved in DOGE efforts and all their respective conflicts of interest.

The culture of corruption at DOGE starts at the top. Elon Musk, President Trump's largest campaign donor and handpicked head of DOGE, has personally disregarded ethics laws and wielded significant government authority at agencies that directly affect his business ventures and personal wealth. Mr. Musk's private business empire, which spans various

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<sup>1</sup> Executive Order 14158, 90 Fed. Reg. 8441 (Jan. 20, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> *Tracking the Lawsuits Against Trump's Agenda*, The New York Times (Mar. 8, 2025) (online at [www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/us/trump-administration-lawsuits.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/us/trump-administration-lawsuits.html)).

<sup>3</sup> *White House Staffer Who Worked for Private Clients Steps Down from Consulting Firm*, The Wall Street Journal (Feb. 28, 2025) (online at [www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-staffer-katie-miller-steps-down-consulting-firm-1698720a](http://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-staffer-katie-miller-steps-down-consulting-firm-1698720a)); *DOGE Put Him in the Treasury Department. His Company Has Federal Contracts Worth Millions*, WIRED (Feb. 21, 2025) (online at [www.wired.com/story/krause-doge-cloud-software-treasury/?\\_sp=a9f6d797-1a67-46b1-a1e3-b1e5b6af772d.1741639210633](http://www.wired.com/story/krause-doge-cloud-software-treasury/?_sp=a9f6d797-1a67-46b1-a1e3-b1e5b6af772d.1741639210633)).

industries including the transportation, health, telecommunications, and defense sectors, relies heavily on government funding, even more so than many of his competitors. As of February 2025, Mr. Musk has been promised a combined total of at least \$38 billion in contracts, loans, subsidies, and tax credits from the federal government and state governments.<sup>4</sup>

Mr. Musk's deep financial entanglement with the federal government has not prevented him from directly influencing decisions to overhaul federal agencies that directly contract with or otherwise provide taxpayer-funded support to his companies. His substantial conflicts of interest have also not stopped him from making broad changes to agencies that have regulatory jurisdiction over his businesses, including some with active investigations.<sup>5</sup> At the Department of Transportation (DOT), for instance, Musk's DOGE operation has directed the firing of 400 employees at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which just months earlier fined Mr. Musk's SpaceX company for disregarding license requirements for two of its launches.<sup>6</sup> DOGE also fired 4% of the 800-person workforce at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA), which has opened five investigations into Tesla, several of which concern life-threatening flaws with the car's "self-driving" mode, including unexpected braking, loss of steering control, and crashes.<sup>7</sup>

These conflicts of interest are not permissible under the law. The Trump Administration has designated Mr. Musk a Special Government Employee (SGE), but SGEs are temporary executive hires that can only perform limited duties.<sup>8</sup> Mr. Musk's duties at DOGE have been expansive, and President Trump has explicitly stated that DOGE is "headed by Elon Musk."<sup>9</sup> Mr. Musk's status as an SGE is being challenged in court by a coalition of states who argue that his authority to make sweeping government reforms—some of which have already been deemed illegal in court—is consistent with the duties of an "officer of the U.S."<sup>10</sup> Officers are high-level

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<sup>4</sup> *Elon Musk's Business Empire is Built on \$38 Billion in Government Funding*, Washington Post (Feb. 26, 2025) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/technology/interactive/2025/elon-musk-business-government-contracts-funding/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/interactive/2025/elon-musk-business-government-contracts-funding/)).

<sup>5</sup> 18 U.S. Code § 208.

<sup>6</sup> *U.S. Agencies Fund, and Fight With, Elon Musk. A Trump Presidency Could Give Him Power Over Them.*, New York Times (Oct. 21, 2024) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2024/10/20/us/politics/elon-musk-federal-agencies-contracts.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/20/us/politics/elon-musk-federal-agencies-contracts.html)); *How Many Federal Workers Have Lost Their Jobs? All The Firing, Layoffs, and Resignations so Far.*, New York Magazine (Feb. 26, 2025) (online at [nymag.com/intelligencer/article/how-many-federal-employees-fired-jobs-cut-trump-doge.html](https://nymag.com/intelligencer/article/how-many-federal-employees-fired-jobs-cut-trump-doge.html)).

<sup>7</sup> *Federal Agency Investigating Elon Musk's Tesla Hit with DOGE Layoffs*, USA Today (Feb. 24, 2025) (online at [www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/02/24/nhtsa-doge-layoffs-tesla-self-driving-investigation/80014006007/](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/02/24/nhtsa-doge-layoffs-tesla-self-driving-investigation/80014006007/)); *U.S. Agencies Fund, and Fight With, Elon Musk. A Trump Presidency Could Give Him Power Over Them.*, New York Times (Oct. 21, 2024) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2024/10/20/us/politics/elon-musk-federal-agencies-contracts.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/20/us/politics/elon-musk-federal-agencies-contracts.html)).

<sup>8</sup> *Is Elon Musk's Government Role Unconstitutional? What the Supreme Court Might Say*, ABC News (Feb. 17, 2025) (online at <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/elon-musks-government-role-unconstitutional-supreme-court/story?id=118846052>).

<sup>9</sup> The White House, *Remarks By President Trump in Joint Address to Congress* (Mar. 4, 2025) (online at [www.whitehouse.gov/remarks/2025/03/remarks-by-president-trump-in-joint-address-to-congress/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/remarks/2025/03/remarks-by-president-trump-in-joint-address-to-congress/)).

<sup>10</sup> *Is Elon Musk's Government Role Unconstitutional? What the Supreme Court Might Say*, ABC News (Feb. 17, 2025) (online at <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/elon-musks-government-role-unconstitutional-supreme->

positions that wield significant authority, and, as such, require Senate approval, which Mr. Musk lacks.<sup>11</sup>

Mr. Musk is further circumventing federal ethics laws to avoid filing the public financial disclosures required of senior Administration officials.<sup>12</sup> Ethics laws prevent political appointees, including SGEs, from taking part in any matter that might impact their personal finances, per 18 U.S. Code § 208.<sup>13</sup> The law, however, has not stopped Mr. Musk. Mr. Musk's willingness to enrich himself through DOGE is a textbook example of corruption at the taxpayers' expense.

Mr. Musk's DOGE employees have similarly ignored anti-corruption laws. Mr. Musk heavily recruited unpaid volunteers for DOGE, some of whom have continued to serve in their lucrative, private sector positions while in government.<sup>14</sup> After DOGE installed him in a senior role at the U.S. Department of Treasury, Tom Krause, a software engineer and "Elon Musk ally," has remained the CEO of Cloud Software Group. The company owns several IT companies, including cloud computing company Citrix, and has millions of dollars in active federal contracts through distribution partners.<sup>15</sup> Mr. Krause took this position after a career civil servant refused to give the DOGE team access to some of Treasury's most sensitive data systems.<sup>16</sup> Now, Mr. Krause wields a great deal of power over the agency's far-reaching data and disbursement systems. Mr. Krause's "position will give him control over the Treasury Department system responsible for disbursing more than \$5 trillion in annual payments, including for Social Security, Medicare, tax refunds and thousands of other items. ... Beyond the payments system, Krause will oversee a broad range of vital Treasury Department functions, including auctions of US debt, management of large-scale tech systems and handling of the federal debt limit."<sup>17</sup>

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court/story?id=118846052); *Tracking the Lawsuits Against Trump's Agenda*, The New York Times (Mar. 8, 2025) (online at [www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/us/trump-administration-lawsuits.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/us/trump-administration-lawsuits.html)).

<sup>11</sup> *Is Elon Musk's Government Role Unconstitutional? What the Supreme Court Might Say*, ABC News (Feb. 17, 2025) (online at <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/elon-musks-government-role-unconstitutional-supreme-court/story?id=118846052>).

<sup>12</sup> *Musk's Starlink Gets FAA Contract, Raising New Conflict of Interest Concerns*, CNN (Feb. 25, 2025) (online at [www.cnn.com/2025/02/25/business/musk-faa-starlink-contract/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2025/02/25/business/musk-faa-starlink-contract/index.html)).

<sup>13</sup> 18 U.S. Code § 208.

<sup>14</sup> Department of Government Efficiency (@DOGE), X (Nov. 14, 2024) (online at <https://x.com/DOGE/status/1857076831104434289>); Elon Musk (@elonmusk), X (Nov. 14, 2024) (online at <https://x.com/elonmusk/status/1857112441529700671>).

<sup>15</sup> *DOGE Put Him in the Treasury Department. His Company Has Federal Contracts Worth Millions*, WIRED (Feb. 21, 2025) (online at [www.wired.com/story/krause-doge-cloud-software-treasury/?\\_sp=a9f6d797-1a67-46b1-a1e3-b1e5b6af772d.1741639210633](http://www.wired.com/story/krause-doge-cloud-software-treasury/?_sp=a9f6d797-1a67-46b1-a1e3-b1e5b6af772d.1741639210633)); *Krause Keeps Citrix Parent CEO Role Amid Work With Treasury, Musk's DOGE*, CRN, (Feb. 6, 2025) (online at [www.crn.com/news/cloud/2025/krause-keeps-citrix-parent-ceo-role-amid-work-with-treasury-musk-s-doge](http://www.crn.com/news/cloud/2025/krause-keeps-citrix-parent-ceo-role-amid-work-with-treasury-musk-s-doge)).

<sup>16</sup> *Elon Musk's Man in the Treasury Is Still Holding Down His Day Job as Software CEO*, WIRED (Feb. 14, 2025) (online at [www.wired.com/story/musk-krause-treasury-bfs-conflict-of-interest/](http://www.wired.com/story/musk-krause-treasury-bfs-conflict-of-interest/)).

<sup>17</sup> *DOGE Deputy to Oversee Powerful Treasury System as Musk Demands Cuts*, Washington Post (Feb. 7, 2025) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/02/07/treasury-doge-payments-musk/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/02/07/treasury-doge-payments-musk/)).

Senior Musk aide Katie Miller similarly kept her private sector job during her first month with DOGE, where she, too, is an SGE. Ms. Miller only left her job at P2 Public Affairs, a Republican communications firm after her dual employment was made public.<sup>18</sup>

Because DOGE operates with little to no transparency, it is impossible to know the full extent of the conflicts of interest permeating its workforce. Despite promising that DOGE would be “maximally transparent,” Mr. Musk has provided no details as to how many people work for DOGE, in paid or unpaid positions, let alone how many of these people may be continuing their outside employment.<sup>19</sup>

The first step to ending this ethics crisis is for DOGE to step out of the shadows and reveal its operations to the American people. To that end, please provide answers to the following inquiries by April 1, 2025:

1. A list of the names, roles, and titles of all paid and unpaid employees who work for or have worked for DOGE, including but not limited to staff, Special Government Employees, and volunteers;
2. The names, titles, job descriptions, and compensation for both the public and private sector positions of any DOGE employee who has held or continues to hold outside employment while working for DOGE; and
3. A full and complete description and list of all steps DOGE is taking to ensure that the work undertaken by its employees, in paid or unpaid positions, does not pose a conflict of interest with their personal finances, including any ethics filings, policies, or procedures DOGE is following to address conflicts of interest.

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 has legislative jurisdiction over the federal civil service, public information and records, and the reorganization of the executive branch.

The information requested in this letter will inform potential legislative reforms related to matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

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<sup>18</sup> *White House Staffer Who Worked for Private Clients Steps Down From Consulting Firm*, Wall Street Journal (Feb. 28, 2025) (online at [www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-staffer-katie-miller-steps-down-consulting-firm-1698720a](https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-staffer-katie-miller-steps-down-consulting-firm-1698720a)).

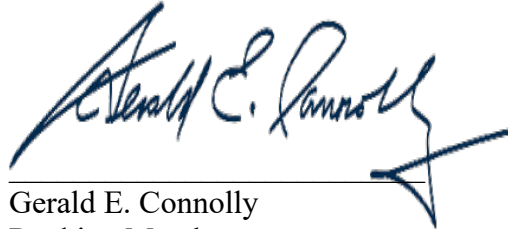
<sup>19</sup> *DOGE Makes Its Latest Errors Harder to Find*, New York Times (Mar. 13, 2025) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2025/03/13/us/politics/doge-errors-funding-grants-claims.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/13/us/politics/doge-errors-funding-grants-claims.html)).

Ms. Amy Gleason

Page 5

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Gerald E. Connolly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gerald E. Connolly  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman