

# 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>

May 1, 2025

Mr. David Warrington  
White House Counsel  
Office of White House Counsel  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Warrington,

We write regarding the scope of duties Elon Musk is undertaking as a special government employee (SGE) and the deeply alarming conflicts of interest presented by his expansive position. In an unprecedented arrangement, President Donald Trump has bestowed expansive and unlawful authority to Mr. Musk, an unelected billionaire. Mr. Musk is redirecting billions of taxpayer dollars to fund his own financial interests while slashing federal employees, programs, and services on which all Americans depend. Mr. Musk also remains in charge of a sprawling private-sector business empire that continues to rely on billions of dollars in government funding and has been charged with managing his own conflicts of interest.<sup>1</sup> The Trump Administration has failed to make public Mr. Musk's financial disclosure filings, hiding the true extent of his conflicts from the public. We request that you provide a copy of Mr. Musk's statutorily required financial disclosure, as well as the written determination by the official who determined Mr. Musk's various conflicts of interest were considered and deemed to be too remote or inconsequential to affect the integrity of Mr. Musk's service.

Federal financial disclosure requirements differ depending on the seniority of the employee, but generally require that government officials disclose their financial interests to "ensure confidence in the integrity of the federal government by demonstrating that they are able to carry out their duties without compromising the public trust."<sup>2</sup> While high-level officials are required to file public financial disclosures, certain other less-senior employees may file confidential disclosures.<sup>3</sup>

The law is clear that federal employees—including SGEs—may not participate in government matters in which they have a financial interest.<sup>4</sup> Government ethics law requires that:

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<sup>1</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>); *White House Says Musk Will Police His Own Conflicts of Interest*, Bloomberg (Feb. 5, 2025) (online at [www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-02-05/white-house-says-musk-will-police-his-own-conflicts-of-interest](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-02-05/white-house-says-musk-will-police-his-own-conflicts-of-interest)).

<sup>2</sup> See e.g.: 5 U.S.C. §§ 101, 107 and 5 C.F.R. § 2634.104(a).

<sup>3</sup> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.104(a).

- (a) Except as permitted by subsection (b) hereof, whoever, being an officer or employee of the executive branch of the United States Government...including a special Government employee, participates personally and substantially as a Government officer or employee, through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation, or otherwise, in a judicial or other proceeding, application, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, charge, accusation, arrest, or other particular matter in which, to his knowledge, he, his spouse, minor child, general partner, organization in which he is serving as officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee, or any person or organization with whom he is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment, has a financial interest— Shall be subject to the penalties set forth in section 216 of this title.<sup>5</sup>

The law allows for a waiver of this provision if the employee has made a full disclosure of the financial interest and received—in advance—a determination that the interest is either remote or insubstantial enough that it would be unlikely to affect the integrity of the employee's work.<sup>6</sup>

To ensure that Mr. Musk has complied with all relevant financial disclosure and conflict of interest mitigation requirements, please provide the following documents and information by May 15, 2025:

1. The legally required financial disclosure Mr. Musk submitted upon his appointment as a special government employee describing—among other items—investment and non-investment income, the source and value of gifts of more than minimal value from non-relatives, and the identity and category of assets and liabilities;<sup>7</sup> and
2. The legally required written determination by the official who determined Mr. Musk's various conflicts of interest were considered and deemed to be too remote or inconsequential to affect the integrity of Mr. Musk's service.<sup>8</sup>

Further, in recognition of Mr. Musk's elevated role in your Administration, we request that he immediately complete a public financial disclosure, as is generally required for employees occupying positions equivalent to those of a member of the Senior Executive Service.<sup>9</sup> This disclosure will provide important transparency to the American people about the interests of a government employee with enormous influence over the use of their tax dollars.

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<sup>4</sup> 18 U.S.C. § 208 (a).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> 18 U.S.C. § 208 (b).

<sup>7</sup> As required under 5 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102.

<sup>8</sup> As required under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b).

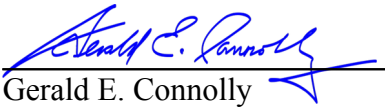
<sup>9</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 101(f).


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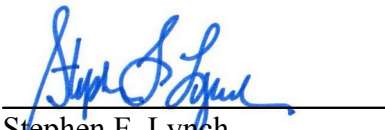
The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of “the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.” If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051.

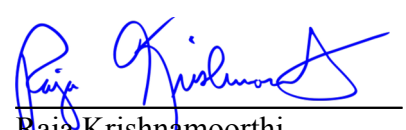
Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.


Sincerely,

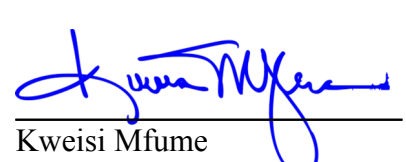
  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Ranking Member


  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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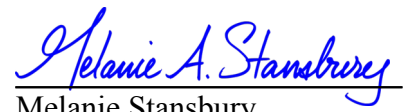
  
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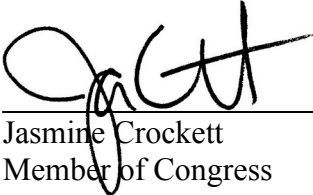
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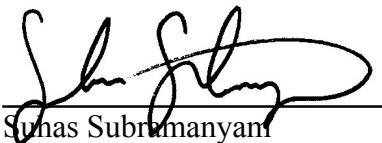
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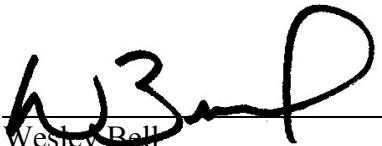
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Suhas Subramanyam  
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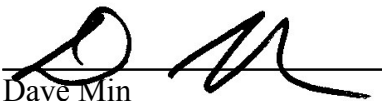
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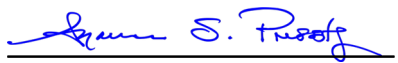
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Ayanna Pressley  
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Rashida Tlaib  
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cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman