

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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July 17, 2025

Mr. Lachlan Murdoch
Executive Chair and Chief Executive Officer
FOX Corporation
1211 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
Dear Mr. Murdoch and Ms. Scott:

Ms. Suzanne Scott
Chief Executive Officer
FOX News Media
1211 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036

I write regarding Fox News' deceptive editing of an interview with President Trump regarding the criminal investigation into his longtime friend, convicted sex offender, and child sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein. On June 2, 2024, in the midst of his presidential campaign, *Fox & Friends* aired an interview with President Trump in which he was asked whether he would declassify files related to Jeffrey Epstein. President Trump appears to respond, "Yeah. Yeah, I would."¹ However, in the raw footage, President Trump clearly refuses to unequivocally endorse full declassification of the Epstein files. Trump says, "You don't want to affect people's lives if it's phony stuff in there."² Trump's true answer was only released later, after the hype of the initial Sunday broadcast had reached the most people, as the Trump campaign continued to amplify the manipulated—and clearly manipulative—version.³ In light of recent allegations by President Trump's former confidant, Elon Musk, that the Epstein files are being withheld because they implicate the President, as well as recent attempts by the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and President Trump himself to shut down public interest in Epstein's clients, I request information to determine whether the President or any member of his campaign may have interfered with your company's decision to edit this interview and mislead the American people in its premier broadcast.⁴

¹ *Fox News Edits Trump Interview Clip to Remove Muddled Response to Jeffrey Epstein Question*, Salon (June 10, 2024) (online at www.salon.com/2024/06/10/fox-news-edits-interview-clip-to-remove-weird-response-to-jeffrey-epstein-question/).

² *Id.*

³ *Declassifying Files & Trust*, Fox and Friends (June 3, 2024) (online at

⁴ Letter from Acting Ranking Member Stephen F. Lynch, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Task Force on the Declassification of Federal Secrets, to Attorney General Pamela J. Bondi and FBI Director Kash Patel (June 5, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-oversight.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-06-05-lynch-garcia-to-patel-bondi-re-epstein-files.pdf>); *Trump Says He Doesn't Understand Interest in 'Boring' Epstein Files: Here's a Timeline of Events*, Forbes (July 16, 2025) (online at

Recently, President Trump has demanded that the American people “not waste Time and Energy on Jeffrey Epstein.”⁵ This is a dramatic reversal by the President and many current Trump Administration officials, who previously attempted to win credibility with the public by claiming that Jeffrey Epstein’s “client list” should be released.⁶ Indeed, President Trump’s campaign actively amplified his misleading, edited answer, claiming that he had promised full declassification.⁷ Prior to becoming FBI director, Kash Patel suggested that the FBI was hiding a list of Jeffrey Epstein’s clients “because of who’s on that list.”⁸ In 2024, while campaigning to become vice president, JD Vance said, “We need to release the Epstein list.”⁹ In February 2025, Attorney General Pam Bondi assured Americans that a so-called Epstein client list was sitting on her desk for review.¹⁰ Now, however, Attorney General Bondi claims that the client list does not even exist.¹¹ And in an emotionally volatile and defensive social media post, President Trump called his own supporters “stupid,” “foolish,” and “weaklings” for continuing to ask questions about the Epstein client list, openly asserting that he does “not want their support anymore!” and bizarrely accusing Democrats of perpetrating a hoax.¹² It is obvious to the American public that someone is lying and someone is trying to hide something.

As a network that reaches an estimated 2,663,000 total viewers, Fox News should not be in the business of censoring interviews with presidential candidates to mislead the public.¹³ The American people have a right to understand why *Fox & Friends* chose to alter President Trump’s

www.forbes.com/sites/alisondurkee/2025/07/16/trump-says-he-doesnt-understand-interest-in-boring-epstein-files-heres-a-timeline-of-events/).

⁵ *Trump Tells Supporters Not To 'Waste Time' On Epstein Files. They're Not Happy*, NPR (July 14, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/2025/07/14/nx-s1-5467151/trump-epstein-files-doj-fbi-maga).

⁶ *What to Know About the Epstein Files, a Perfect Recipe for Conspiracy Theories*, New York Times (July 15, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/07/15/us/politics/jeffrey-epstein-files-trump.html); *What Trump Has Said About Jeffrey Epstein Over the Years, Including on 2024 Campaign Trail*, ABC News (July 16, 2025) (online at <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-jeffrey-epstein-years-including-2024-campaign-trail/story?id=123778541>).

⁷ Trump War Room, X (June 3, 2024) (online at <https://x.com/TrumpWarRoom/status/1797720117737865557>).

⁸ Benny Johnson, X (Dec. 19, 2023) (online at https://x.com/bennyjohnson/status/1737167456374862197?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1737167456374862197%7Ctwgr%5E061af1bcd1dd11cd7ad10089906fca9f9a0f7bfe%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fnypost.com%2F2025%2F07%2F13%2Fus-news%2Fkash-patel-insists-conspiracy-theories-just-arent-true-amid-epstein-firestorm%2F).

⁹ *List of Trump Allies Who Called for Release of Epstein Files*, Newsweek (July 14, 2025) (online at www.newsweek.com/list-trump-allies-who-called-release-epstein-files-2098693).

¹⁰ *Trump Tells Supporters Not To 'Waste Time' On Epstein Files. They're Not Happy*, NPR (July 14, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/2025/07/14/nx-s1-5467151/trump-epstein-files-doj-fbi-maga).

¹¹ Memorandum from the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (July 2025) (online at www.justice.gov/opa/media/1407001/dl?inline).

¹² *Trump Slams His Own Supporters as 'Weaklings' for Falling for What He Now Calls the Epstein 'Hoax,'* Fox 13 Salt Lake City (July 16, 2025) (online at www.fox13now.com/news/national-news/trump-slams-his-own-supporters-as-weaklings-for-falling-for-what-he-now-calls-the-epstein-hoax).

¹³ *Here are the 2nd Quarter of 2025 Cable News Ratings*, AdWeek (July 1, 2025) (online at www.adweek.com/tvnewser/here-are-the-2nd-quarter-of-2025-cable-news-ratings/).

stated position on the release of the Epstein files. Considering President Trump's well-documented past social ties with Jeffrey Epstein, Fox News's selective omission raises serious concerns that the network may have deliberately sought to shield then-candidate Trump from any further association with Epstein or the horrific crimes he perpetrated for decades—grooming, abusing, and trafficking minors for sex.¹⁴

It is legitimate to ask whether President Trump himself or those close to him may have actively encouraged this withholding of information from the American people. On June 5, 2025, Elon Musk, the former senior advisor to the President and head of the Department of Government Efficiency, posted on X: “@realDonaldTrump is in the Epstein files. That is the real reason they have not been made public.”¹⁵ Last month, I formally requested that Attorney General Bondi and Director Patel clarify whether this allegation is true and provide basic information about the President's role in withholding documents from declassification.¹⁶

This question is more pressing given President Trump's efforts to punish Paramount Global, a media outlet, for airing two different clips of an interview with a political opponent. President Trump sued CBS News for editing an interview with former Vice President Kamala Harris and presenting what he claimed were “doctored” versions to Americans, despite the clips depicting two parts of the same answer that did not substantially change its meaning.¹⁷ In an October 31, 2024, complaint, attorneys for then-candidate Trump wrote that “millions of Americans ... were confused and misled by the two doctored Interview versions” and flagged Trump's post on Truth Social: “In normal times, what happened on 60 Minutes, (deceptively ‘doctoring’ her answers), would be THE END OF ANYONE'S CAMPAIGN! ... RELEASE THE TAPES FOR THE GOOD OF AMERICA.”¹⁸ Americans should know whether President Trump hypocritically called for the end of Kamala Harris's presidential campaign for CBS's

¹⁴ *Jeffrey Epstein Charged In Manhattan Federal Court With Sex Trafficking of Minors*, Department of Justice (July 8, 2019) (online at www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/jeffrey-epstein-charged-manhattan-federal-court-sex-trafficking-minors); *A Detailed Look at the Relationship Between Trump and Jeffrey Epstein*, NBC News (July 16, 2025) (online at www.nbcnews.com/now/video/timeline-trump-and-epstein-relationship-243364933742).

¹⁵ *Musk Says Trump Is ‘In the Epstein files’ Which is Why They Haven’t Been Made Public in Newest Slam*, Independent (June 5, 2025) (online at www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-epstein-files-pam-bondi-virginia-giuffre-death-b2740239.html).

¹⁶ Letter from Acting Ranking Member Stephen F. Lynch, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Task Force on the Declassification of Federal Secrets, to Attorney General Pamela J. Bondi and FBI Director Kash Patel (June 5, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-oversight.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-06-05-lynch-garcia-to-patel-bondi-re-epstein-files.pdf>).

¹⁷ *President Donald J. Trump vs. CBS Broadcasting Corp and CBS Interactive Inc.*, Complaint, 3-4 (N.D. Tex. Oct. 31, 2024) (online at www.courthousenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/trump-vs-cbs.pdf); *60 Minutes Publishes Transcripts, Video Requested by FCC*, CBS News (Feb. 5, 2025) (online at www.cbsnews.com/news/60-minutes-publishes-transcripts-video-requested-by-fcc/).

¹⁸ *President Donald J. Trump vs. CBS Broadcasting Corp and CBS Interactive Inc.*, Complaint, 3-4 (N.D. Tex. Oct. 31, 2024) (online at www.courthousenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/trump-vs-cbs.pdf).

apparently innocuous editing decision, while simultaneously benefitting from and potentially even pressuring Fox News's more egregious manipulation of an interview in his own favor.

In the interest of transparency and accountability to the American public, and to understand whether President Trump or his associates put pressure on Fox News to edit President Trump's June 2, 2024, *Fox & Friends* interview to mislead the public, please provide the following information by July 31, 2025:

1. Any communications between Fox News and the Trump 2024 presidential campaign regarding President Trump's June 2, 2024, *Fox & Friends* interview from June 1, 2024, to the present;
2. Any communications between Fox News and the Trump 2024 presidential campaign or President Trump regarding Jeffrey Epstein from June 1, 2024, to the present; and
3. All internal communications regarding President Trump's June 2, 2025, *Fox & Friends* interview from June 1, 2024, to the present.

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. 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,



Robert Garcia
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman