

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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September 5, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

Recent reports raise serious concerns about Mr. Corey Lewandowski's role at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as a Special Government Employee (SGE).¹ According to a court filing by DHS, Mr. Lewandowski appears to be serving in a high-level role as "Chief Advisor" to you and is alleged to have veto power over DHS grants and contracts of \$100,000 or more, indicating that he likely qualifies as a "public filer" within the meaning of 5 C.F.R. § 2634.202 and must therefore have filed a financial disclosure report made available to the public.² The lack of this public financial disclosure undermines transparency and erodes public trust in government. As the Secretary of Homeland Security, we request that you release Mr. Lewandowski's financial disclosure report to the Committee and make it publicly available as required by law.³

Mr. Lewandowski's role at DHS appears to be expansive and reportedly includes acting as Secretary Noem's "gatekeeper" and de facto chief of staff, controlling access to the Secretary, managing DHS operations, influencing FEMA grant decisions, and exercising the power to dismiss employees despite no clear authority to do so.⁴ He has also reportedly overruled decisions made by the Deputy Secretary, further illustrating the breadth of his operational control

¹ *How Corey Lewandowski Became Kristi Noem's Gatekeeper at DHS*, Wall Street Journal (Aug. 7, 2025) (online at www.wsj.com/politics/policy/how-corey-lewandowski-became-kristi-noems-gatekeeper-at-dhs-6c08d996); *How Corey Lewandowski's Power at the Department of Homeland Security Keeps Growing*, CNN (Aug. 5, 2025) (online at www.cnn.com/2025/08/05/politics/corey-lewandowski-growing-power-dhs); *White House, DHS Probe Lewandowski's Work Amid Day Limit Concerns*, Axios (Aug. 14, 2025) (online at www.axios.com/2025/08/14/white-house-dhs-lewandowski-noem).

² Exhibit D, Document No. 147, Attachment No. 4, *National TPS Alliance v. Noem* (N.D. California) (May 23, 2025) (online at www.courtlistener.com/docket/69655305/147/4/national-tps-alliance-v-noem/) (accessed Aug. 28, 2025).

³ 5 U.S.C. § 13101 et. seq.; 5 C.F.R. § 2634.204.

⁴ *How Corey Lewandowski Became Kristi Noem's Gatekeeper at DHS*, Wall Street Journal (Aug. 7, 2025) (online at www.wsj.com/politics/policy/how-corey-lewandowski-became-kristi-noems-gatekeeper-at-dhs-6c08d996); *How Corey Lewandowski's Power at the Department of Homeland Security Keeps Growing*, CNN (Aug. 5, 2025) (online at www.cnn.com/2025/08/05/politics/corey-lewandowski-growing-power-dhs).

and the extent to which he is functioning beyond an advisory role.⁵ Multiple officials have also expressed concern that his influence over personnel and funding decisions is both far-reaching and unchecked, with one noting that staff fear crossing him because of his perceived authority to fire them.⁶ Such a concentration of power in a temporary role undermines the statutory purpose of the SGE designation and raises the risk of conflicts of interest.⁷

Mr. Lewandowski likely qualifies as a public filer within the definition provided in 5 C.F.R. § 2634.202, as his listing as “Chief Advisor” to the Secretary of Homeland Security, in addition to reports of his prominent role in reviewing all DHS grants and contracts exceeding \$100,000, heavily implies a position excepted from competitive service by reason of being a confidential or policy-making character also triggering public filer status.⁸

As per our last letter sent on August 21, 2025—for which we have yet to receive a response from DHS despite the deadline passing—it also appears likely that Mr. Lewandowski has exceeded the statutory limit placed on SGEs of 130 days of work during any 365-day period.⁹ Public financial disclosure is required for SGEs that are expected to serve more than 60 days and qualify as a public filer—both qualifications which Mr. Lewandowski has clearly met.¹⁰ According to DHS, Mr. Lewandowski has worked at least 69 days since his hiring in late January, 2025.¹¹ Although it is likely that Mr. Lewandowski has far surpassed 69 days of work based on media reports of his underreporting his hours worked, that stated amount of time still crosses the 60-day threshold requiring Mr. Lewandowski’s financial disclosure report be made available to the public, as it no longer qualifies for an exemption from disclosure.¹² Any special

⁵ *How Corey Lewandowski’s Power at the Department of Homeland Security Keeps Growing*, CNN (Aug. 5, 2025) (online at www.cnn.com/2025/08/05/politics/corey-lewandowski-growing-power-dhs).

⁶ *How Corey Lewandowski Became Kristi Noem’s Gatekeeper at DHS*, Wall Street Journal (Aug. 7, 2025) (online at www.wsj.com/politics/policy/how-corey-lewandowski-became-kristi-noems-gatekeeper-at-dhs-6c08d996).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ 5 C.F.R. § 2634.202; see Exhibit D, Document No. 147, Attachment No. 4, *National TPS Alliance v. Noem* (N.D. California) (May 23, 2025) (online at www.courtlistener.com/docket/69655305/147/4/national-tps-alliance-v-noem/) (accessed Aug. 28, 2025).

⁹ 18 U.S.C. § 202(a); Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Secretary Kristi Noem, Department of Homeland Security (Aug. 21, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-oversight.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-08-21.garcia-to-dhs-re-lewandowski.pdf>).

¹⁰ *Summary of the Rules on Special Government Employees*, U.S. Department of Justice (online at www.justice.gov/jmd/ethics/summary-government-ethics-rules-special-government-employees) (accessed Aug. 28, 2025); 5 C.F.R. § 2634.202 (c); 5 C.F.R. § 2634.204. See also 5 U.S.C. § 13103(f)(3).

¹¹ *Scoop: White House Suspicious of Lewandowski’s “Temp” Work*, Axios (Aug. 14, 2025) (online at www.axios.com/2025/08/14/white-house-dhs-lewandowski-noem).

¹² *Summary of the Rules on Special Government Employees*, U.S. Department of Justice (online at www.justice.gov/jmd/ethics/summary-government-ethics-rules-special-government-employees) (accessed Aug. 28, 2025); 5 C.F.R. § 2634.204.

waiver of public reporting requirements must be granted by the director of OGE only if the director determines the SGE fits the criteria of 5 C.F.R. § 2634.205.¹³

It is abundantly clear that federal law requires Mr. Lewandowski's financial disclosure to be made public. Yet as of August 28, 2025, the OGE website contains no publicly available financial disclosure. To ensure that Congress can perform its constitutional oversight responsibilities and protect the integrity of DHS, we request that you release Mr. Lewandowski's financial disclosure to the Committee as well as publish the disclosure by September 19, 2025. In the event that you or any other official at DHS have granted Mr. Lewandowski a special waiver of public reporting requirements, the Committee requests all paperwork, correspondence, and communications pertaining to the granting of the waiver, including all materials required to be submitted to OGE under 5 C.F.R. § 2634.205 justifying the special waiver, such as communications from the agency.

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 may use the results of this investigation to inform legislative solutions to clarify the classification, role and duties, and time restrictions for special government employees under 18 U.S.C. § 202. If you have any questions about 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 black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Garcia', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Garcia
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

¹³ 5 C.F.R. § 2634.205 (a).