

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

September 10, 2025

Mr. John “Joe” Allen
Chief Counsel, Office of Inspector General
Performing the Duties of the Inspector General
Federal Housing Finance Agency
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20219

Dear Mr. Allen:

Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) Director Bill Pulte’s recent actions represent a troubling and unprecedented politicization of the agency’s investigative functions. In recent months, Director Pulte has publicly accused public officials, including Senator Adam Schiff, New York Attorney General Letitia James, and Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook, of falsifying mortgage application documents, actions that one federal judge compared to the actions of a British king seeking retribution.¹ While any fraud deserves scrutiny, these FHFA paperwork issues are fairly common, rarely prosecuted, and have been connected to three Trump Administration cabinet members,² the Attorney General of Texas,³ and Pulte’s own family.⁴ In this context, the charges appear to be a blatant and disturbing example of federal authority being wielded to intimidate enemies of President Trump. The apparent weaponization of FHFA enforcement under Director Pulte’s leadership not only threatens the independence of critical institutions—including, though its conduct, the Federal Reserve—but also undermines the foundational principles of American democracy, in an attempt to intimidate opposition to President Trump.

The circumstances, timing and selection of these investigations raise serious questions about their independence and legitimacy. Director Pulte has a documented history of partisan

¹ *What to Know About the Allegations Against Lisa Cook of the Fed*, New York Times (Aug. 27, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/08/22/us/politics/trump-lisa-cook-fed-mortgage-fraud.html); *‘Little Trump’ Turns Federal Finance Agency into Tool for Political Retaliation*, Democracy Docket (July 23, 2025) (online at www.democracydocket.com/analysis/little-trump-turns-federal-finance-agency-into-tool-for-political-retaliation/).

² *Trump Is Accusing Foes With Multiple Mortgages of Fraud. Records Show 3 of His Cabinet Members Have Them*, Pro Publica (Sept. 4, 2025) (online at www.propublica.org/article/trump-cabinet-mortgage-fraud).

³ *Report: Texas AG Ken Paxton Claimed Three Homes as Primary Residence*, CBS (July 24, 2025) (online at www.cbsnews.com/texas/news/ken-angela-paxton-mortgage-primary-residence-homestead-exemption/).

⁴ *Exclusive: Bill Pulte Accused Fed Governor Lisa Cook of Fraud. His Relatives Filed Housing Claims Similar to Hers*, Reuters (Sept. 5, 2025) (online at www.reuters.com/world/us/bill-pulte-accused-fed-governor-lisa-cook-fraud-his-relatives-filed-housing-2025-09-05/).

rhetoric and substantial financial support for President Trump's campaign, including a \$500,000 contribution to a political action committee tied to Pulte's wife, which failed to be properly disclosed.⁵ These discrepancies call into question the Director's own impartiality and fitness to oversee such investigations.⁶ Director Pulte has appeared eager to use his position to attack the Federal Reserve's independent policymaking by accusing Chair Jerome Powell of "economic warfare against America" and Governor Lisa Cook of mortgage fraud without substantiated evidence.⁷ The Director of FHFA has no statutory oversight role over the Federal Reserve, and his conduct appears to be part of a concerted effort to threaten an independent institution to pursue policies desired by President Trump for short-term political reasons.

Professor Adam Levitin of Georgetown University described the investigation as "absolutely extraordinary" and pointed out how "curiously silent" FHFA was as to how they learned of the fraud.⁸ The allegations against Senator Schiff appear plainly politically motivated and a deviation from customary practice, stemming from a document request specifically for the Senator's loan documentation.⁹ Multiple experts have pointed out the irregularities in these cases, including that "creation of an investigation into a high government official is extraordinarily unusual for a Fannie Mae inspector general," and that this action appears as though President Trump is "weaponizing [inspectors general] to attack his political opponents."¹⁰

At the same time, FHFA appears to be ignoring public reporting that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton appears to have knowingly falsified mortgage documents, a matter that, conspicuously, has not prompted any announced inquiry by Director Pulte. Overtly political and unbalanced application of justice underscores the clearly corrupt nature of Director Pulte's allegations. In the spirit of commitment to even-handed and unbiased commitment to the rule of law, it would only seem right for the FHFA to investigate the credible allegations against both the multiple members of the Trump Cabinet and Director Pulte's family that have credible evidence of mortgage fraud.¹¹

⁵ Federal Election Commission, Conciliation Agreement in the matter of Make America Great Again, Again! Inc. and Charles Gantt, in his official Capacity as Treasurer (Apr. 28, 2025) (MUR 7994) (online at www.fec.gov/files/legal/murs/7994/7994_19.pdf).

⁶ Mark A. Calabria, Cato Institute (online at www.cato.org/people/mark-calabria) (accessed Sept. 6, 2025); History, Arts & Archives United States House of Representatives, Melvin Watt (online at <https://history.house.gov/People/Detail/23463#assignments>) (accessed Sept. 6, 2025).

⁷ Bill Pulte (@Pulte), X (July 18, 2025) (online at <https://x.com/pulte/status/1946185923550392784>); Bill Pulte (@Pulte), X (Aug. 20, 2025) (online at <http://x.com/pulte/status/1958138434171629636>).

⁸ *Bill Pulte's Enemy's List*, Credit Slips (Aug. 20, 2025) (online at www.creditslips.org/creditslips/2025/08/bill-pultes-enemys-list.html)

⁹ *Trump's Vile, Corrupt Attack on Adam Schiff Is Already Backfiring*, The New Republic (July 17, 2025) (online at <https://newrepublic.com/article/198074/trump-adam-schiff-corrupt-attack-backfiring>).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Trump Is Accusing Foes With Multiple Mortgages of Fraud. Records Show 3 of His Cabinet Members Have Them*, Pro Publica (Sept. 4, 2025) (online at www.propublica.org/article/trump-cabinet-mortgage-fraud); *Exclusive: Bill Pulte Accused Fed Governor Lisa Cook of Fraud. His Relatives Filed Housing Claims Similar to Hers*, Reuters (Sept. 5, 2025) (online at www.reuters.com/world/us/bill-pulte-accused-fed-governor-lisa-cook-fraud-his-relatives-filed-housing-2025-09-05/).

Mr. Joe Allen

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I request that you provide answers to the following questions and requested documents by September 24, 2025:

1. All communications between the FHFA director's office and the IG regarding mortgage fraud enforcement priorities;
2. Any communications with the White House regarding FHFA enforcement;
3. All communications regarding enforcement priorities for mortgage fraud at the FHFA under Director Pulte; and
4. Any changes made to investigation criteria for mortgage fraud at the Office of Inspector General since January 20, 2025.

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 about this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

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