

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

October 2, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

I write regarding your recent comments concerning Jeffrey Epstein and your assertion that he was the “greatest blackmailer ever.”¹ Your statement, based on your personal knowledge of Jeffrey Epstein, contradicted statements from other senior administration officials, including sworn testimony by FBI Director Kash Patel.² The Committee is currently investigating the late Jeffrey Epstein’s co-conspirators, the horrific crimes they committed with Mr. Epstein, and the mishandling of the matter by government entities that continues to this very day. In the interest of justice for the victims of Jeffrey Epstein and his enablers, and given your firsthand interactions with and knowledge of Mr. Epstein, we demand that you cooperate with the Committee’s investigation by sitting for a transcribed interview with Committee staff.

On Tuesday, a video of your interview on the Pod Force One podcast was posted on YouTube and other social media platforms.³ During the interview, you recounted an interaction with Jeffrey Epstein—who was your next door neighbor—where you and your wife visited his New York home, witnessed a massage table surrounded with candles, and were told by Mr. Epstein that he received “the right kind of massage” daily.⁴ There is substantial evidence that Epstein’s abuse of young girls occurred at that residence.⁵ Following the encounter, you

¹ *Trump Cabinet Secretary Faces Call to Testify Over His ‘Explosive’ Epstein Claims*, The Daily Beast (Oct. 2, 2025) (online at www.thedailybeast.com/trump-cabinet-secretary-howard-lutnick-faces-call-to-testify-over-his-explosive-epstein-blackmail-claims/).

² *Lutnick calls ex-neighbor Epstein “greatest blackmailer ever”*, Axios (Oct. 2, 2025) (online at www.axios.com/2025/10/02/lutnick-epstein-greatest-blackmailer-fbi-patel).

³ *Howard Lutnick on Living Next Door to Epstein, Surviving 9/11 & Late-Night Calls with Trump*, Pod Force One with Miranda Devine (Oct. 1, 2025) (online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8_s4Z2TQAE&list=PLHY8kGYAi5RLEf4OwozbCSlyF3wJoqcOB&index=1).

⁴ *Lutnick calls ex-neighbor Epstein “greatest blackmailer ever”*, Axios (Oct. 1, 2025) (online at www.axios.com/2025/10/02/lutnick-epstein-greatest-blackmailer-fbi-patel).

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, *Jeffrey Epstein Charged In Manhattan Federal Court With Sex Trafficking Of Minors* (July 8, 2019) (online at www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/jeffrey-epstein-charged-manhattan-federal-court-sex-trafficking-minors).

described your decision to “never be in the room with that disgusting person ever again.”⁶

During your interview, you described Epstein as “the greatest blackmailer ever” and stated, “that’s how he had money.”⁷ In direct contrast to this statement, President Trump’s justice department and FBI published a joint memorandum earlier this year in which they claimed they found no credible evidence that Epstein blackmailed prominent individuals.⁸

In the interview you also asserted that prominent figures frequently received massages at Epstein’s residence, and “what happened in that massage room, I assume, was on video.”⁹ You continued:

He’s a serial sex offender. How could he get 18 months and be able to go to his office during the day and have visitors and stuff? There must have been a trade... So my assumption, I have no knowledge, but my assumption is there was a trade for the videos, because there were people on those videos.¹⁰

The Committee appreciates your interest in sharing your personal knowledge of Jeffrey Epstein with the American public. Your immediate determination that Epstein was a “disgusting person” based on a single interaction is important. This raises questions whether others in Epstein’s longtime orbit, particularly those with ongoing social or professional ties, may have been aware of his abusive behavior. We appreciate that you, like us, are appalled by Epstein’s conduct and the lenient treatment he received from former U.S. Attorney Alex Acosta, President Trump’s Labor Secretary in his first term, prior to Epstein’s death.

The Committee is working to trace the sources of Epstein’s wealth and hold accountable those complicit with his crimes—no matter how powerful, wealthy, or well-connected they may be. We urge you to cooperate with the Committee’s investigation and provide your knowledge of Jeffrey Epstein and his crimes in a transcribed interview with

⁶ Lutnick: *Epstein was the ‘greatest blackmailer ever’*, The Hill (Oct. 1, 2025) (online at <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5533724-lutnick-epstein-blackmailer-interview/>).

⁷ *Trump Cabinet Secretary Faces Call to Testify Over His ‘Explosive’ Epstein Claims*, The Daily Beast (Oct. 2, 2025) (online at www.thedailybeast.com/trump-cabinet-secretary-howard-lutnick-faces-call-to-testify-over-his-explosive-epstein-blackmail-claims/).

⁸ Memorandum from U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (July 2025) (online at www.justice.gov/opa/media/1407001/dl?inline).

⁹ *Id.*

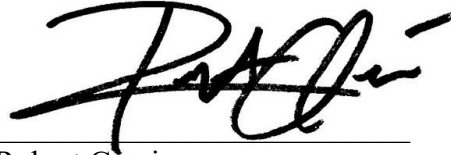
¹⁰ *Howard Lutnick on Living Next Door to Epstein, Surviving 9/11 & Late-Night Calls with Trump*, Pod Force One with Miranda Devine (Oct. 1, 2025) (online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8_s4Z2TQAE&list=PLHY8kGYAi5RLEf4OwozbCSlyF3wJoqcOB&index=1). This is not the first time this claim has been made. Several individuals familiar with Epstein’s crimes have stated that “Epstein likely conducted video surveillance in every home he owned. As insurance, he probably had tapes and photographs of important visitors—mainly men—in compromising situations.” *Perversion of Justice: The Jeffrey Epstein Story*, Julie K. Brown (Nov. 2018).

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Committee staff. The firsthand information you possess about Epstein will assist the Committee in our investigation.

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 'R. Garcia', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Garcia
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman