

January 10, 2025

Ms. Dani Irvine
Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official
Office of the General Counsel
Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Ms. Irvine:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Secretary of Defense. It is my responsibility to understand and comply with commitments outlined in this agreement.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL COMMITMENTS

As required by the criminal conflicts of interest law at 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the particular matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me:

- Any spouse or minor child of mine;
- Any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner;
- Any organization in which I serve as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee, even if uncompensated; and
- Any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with an agency ethics official and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict, such as recusal from the particular matter or divestiture of an asset.

If I have a managed account or otherwise use the services of an investment professional during my appointment, I will ensure that the account manager or investment professional obtains my prior approval on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of any assets other than cash, cash equivalents, investment funds that qualify for the regulatory exemption for diversified mutual funds and unit investment trusts at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), obligations of the United States, or municipal bonds.

If I rely on a de minimis exemption under 5 C.F.R. § 2640.202 with regard to any of my financial interests in securities, I will monitor the value of those interests. If the aggregate value of interests affected by a particular matter increases and exceeds the de minimis threshold, I will not participate personally and substantially in the particular matter that to my knowledge has a

direct and predictable effect on the interests, unless I first obtain a written waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1).

I will receive a live ethics briefing from a member of the ethics office after my confirmation but not later than 7 days after my appointment pursuant to the ethics program regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will submit my Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance which documents my compliance with this ethics agreement.

I will not modify this ethics agreement without your approval and the approval of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) pursuant to the ethics agreement requirements contained in the financial disclosure regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2634.803(a)(4).

SECTION 2 – FOX NEWS NETWORK

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my position with Fox News Network. My spouse is also employed by Fox News Network. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for a period of one year after my resignation, or for as long as my spouse continues to work for Fox News Network, whichever is later, I will have a covered relationship with Fox News Network. Pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d), I may seek written authorization to participate personally and substantially in particular matters involving specific parties in which I know Fox News Network is a party or represents a party. Until such an authorization is granted, I will recuse pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502 for a period of one year after my resignation. However, I understand that any authorization will not allow me to participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know my spouse is participating.

SECTION 3 – RETAINED INTERESTS

I am the sole proprietor of an unregistered company without a separate tax ID number which does business as Peter Hegseth. It is an alter ego of myself through which I previously received payments for various speaking engagements. During my appointment to the position of Secretary of Defense, this entity will remain dormant and will not advertise. I will not perform any services for this entity, except that I will comply with any court orders or subpoenas and any requirements involving legal filings, taxes, and fees that are necessary to maintain this entity while it is in an inactive status. As Secretary of Defense, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of this entity.

SECTION 4 – BOOKS

I receive royalties from HarperCollins, Center Street, and Simon and Schuster for sales of my books. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know any of these entities is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

SECTION 5 - OTHER COMMITMENTS

In addition to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I understand that as an employee of the Department of Defense I will be required to comply with Section 1117 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022. Therefore, for a period of two years after my resignation from any organization, including a trade organization, for which I served as an employee, officer, director, trustee, or general partner, I will not knowingly participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which that organization is a party or represents a party to the matter, unless I am authorized to participate, pursuant to Section 1117(b).

SECTION 6 – PUBLIC POSTING

I have been advised that this ethics agreement and the Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance will be posted publicly, consistent with the public information law at 5 U.S.C. § 552, on the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics with ethics agreements of other presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Henseth', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Pete Henseth