UNITED STATES OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS
Preventing Conflicts of Interest in the Executive Branch

AIMS Agency Information Management System

Resolved Interaction

Interaction Number: 27619	
Initiation Date*:	2025-02-03
Title*:	(b) (5) [redacted]
Question*:	(b) (5) [redacted]
Update:	
Categories*:	(b) (5) [redacted]
Origin Of Interaction*:	Phone
Source*:	Agency Social Security Administration
First Name:	Angela
Last Name:	White
Title:	Senior Attorney
Position:	Ethics Official
Email:	(b)(6) [redacted]
Phone:	(b)(6) [redacted]
Other Contact Notes:	Emma Robertson spoke to the agency while Melba Melton [redacted]
Assignment:	Melba Melton
Watching:	
Temporary Notes:	
created by:	*Melba Melton*

Resolution Information	
Resolution Date*:	2025-02-03
Resolution Category*:	Resolved
Response*:	(b)(5) and some information also (b)(6) personal [redacted] *(Assigned to: Melba Melton)*
Complexity (level):	1 [Click to view/hide complexity guidelines]
Time Spent (hours):	0-1 hour
Contributor:	Emma Robertson
reopen	

Interaction History Log

Closed	02/04/2025 10:02:42 AM by Melba Melton
Now Assigned: Melba Melton	02/04/2025 10:02:42 AM by Melba Melton

Division(s) assigned: GCLPD

From:	Christopher J. Swartz
To:	Melba Melton; Christie Chung; Emma Robertson; Jenna R. Mazzella; Kimberly L. Sikora Panza; Leah C. Stromberg; Margaret E. Dylus-Yukins; Marian Lemont; Marjorie R. Levine; Maura Leary; Morris C. Barren; Rachel K. McRae; Seth Jaffe
Cc:	David J. Apol
Subject:	RE: (b)(5) deliberative and predecisional
Date:	Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:53:37 AM
Attachments:	image001.png

Melba
This is an extremely important question. I second your request that consideration be given to advice on this topic.

Christopher J. Swartz
Senior Associate Counsel
U.S. Office of Government Ethics

(202) 482-9267
Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov
Follow OGE @OfficeGovEthics

From: Melba Melton <mmelton@oge.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:14 AM
To: Christie Chung <cchung@oge.gov>; Christopher J. Swartz <cjswartz@oge.gov>; Emma Robertson <eroberts@oge.gov>; Jenna R. Mazzella <jrmazzel@oge.gov>; Kimberly L. Sikora Panza <klspanza@oge.gov>; Leah C. Stromberg <lcstromb@oge.gov>; Margaret E. Dylus-Yukins <meyukins@oge.gov>; Marian Lemont <mlemont@oge.gov>; Marjorie R. Levine <mlevine@oge.gov>; Maura Leary <mleary@oge.gov>; Melba Melton <mmelton@oge.gov>; Morris C. Barren <mbarren@oge.gov>; Rachel K. McRae <rmcrae@oge.gov>; Seth Jaffe <sjaffe@oge.gov>
Cc: David J. Apol <djapol@oge.gov>
Subject: (b)(5) deliberative and predecisional ?

Good morning!

SSA reached out on Monday, and Emma graciously responded to their question while I (b)(6) personal (b)(5) deliberative and predecisional .

Has anyone else received similar questions from their agencies? If so, are we aware of any forthcoming guidance from OGE regarding (b)(5) deliberative and predecisional ?

Thank you!

Melba

Melba Melton
_____
Assistant Counsel, Ethics Law & Policy Branch
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
250 E Street SW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20024
mmelton@oge.gov

(202) 482-9233

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Attachments released below

From: Boland, Patrick (Schiff)
To: David Huitema; (b)(6) Pace McMullan email address; James C. EOP WHO Braid
Cc: OGE Ethics
Subject: Letters from Sen. Schiff on Elon Musk
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 4:30:42 AM
Attachments: 20250210 Sen Schiff Letter to OGE on Musk.pdf
20250210 Sen Schiff Letter to COS Wiles on Musk.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside OGE. Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding. If you believe this email is suspicious, please forward it to spam@oge.gov for additional analysis.

Good morning,

Please see the attached letters from Senator Adam Schiff for White House Chief of Staff Wiles and OGE Director Huitema regarding Elon Musk.

Please confirm receipt when you're able.

Best,
Patrick

--
Patrick M. Boland
Chief of Staff
Sen. Adam Schiff

ADAM B. SCHIFF
UNITED STATES SENATOR
CALIFORNIA

112 HART SENATE
OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

(202) 224–3841

schiff.senate.gov

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

February 10, 2025

David Huitema
Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
250 E Street, SW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Director Huitema,

I am writing to request that the Office of Government Ethics clarify Elon Musk's compliance with federal conflicts of interest, ethics, and reporting requirements in light of his activities within the Executive Office of the President since January 20, 2025, and his access to sensitive government information while he retains significant financial interests in multiple private companies that benefit from federal government contracts.

According to a White House official, Mr. Musk is serving in the Administration as a "special government employee," which makes him subject to the federal criminal conflict of interest statute, as well as other legal and ethical obligations.[1] The federal criminal conflict of interest statute, in particular, prohibits government employees, including special government employees, from participating personally and substantially in official matters where they have a financial interest.[2]

Mr. Musk holds substantial financial interests in private companies, including Tesla, Inc., SpaceX, The Boring Company, xAI, X Corp., and Neuralink. According to public reporting, Tesla, Inc. and SpaceX alone account over the past decade for at least $15.4 billion in government contracts across a dozen agencies.[3] Mr. Musk's companies have also been the subject of at least 20 recent investigations or reviews by federal agencies, which heightens the risk that Mr. Musk may seek to use his new position to shield his companies from federal scrutiny.[4]

---

[1] Kaitlan Collins & Tierney Sneed, *Elon Musk is serving as a 'special government employee,' White House says,* CNN (February 3, 2025), https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/03/politics/musk-government-employee/index.html.
[2] 18 U.S.C. § 208. *See* U.S. Office of Government Ethics, "Analyzing Potential Conflicts of Interest," https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Resources/Analyzing+Potential+Conflicts+of+Interest.
[3] Eric Lipton, David A. Fahrenthold, Aaron Krolik & Kirsten Grind, *U.S. Agencies Fund, and Fight With, Elon Musk. A Trump Presidency Could Give Him Power Over Them,* (October 20, 2024), https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/20/us/politics/elon-musk-federal-agencies-contracts.html.
[4] *Id.*

On February 5, 2025, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt stated at a press briefing: "If Elon Musk comes across a conflict of interest with the contracts and the funding that DOGE is overseeing, then Elon will excuse himself from those contracts." Notwithstanding this assertion, Mr. Musk's compliance with federal conflicts of interest and other related obligations remains unknown to Congress and the public. For instance, unless the White House Chief of Staff or another senior White House official, in consultation with the Office of Government Ethics, provided a written waiver *prior* to Mr. Musk's appointment as a special government employee, Mr. Musk may have violated the federal criminal conflict of interest statute by undertaking acts otherwise prohibited by law.

To ensure transparency, which is essential to maintaining congressional and public trust, and to inform the Senate's legislative function, including to review the applicability of existing statutes and consider possible reforms to further strengthen them, please respond to the following questions by February 13, 2025:

1. Has Mr. Musk completed a financial disclosure report, consistent with 5 U.S.C. §13103?

2. Consistent with 18 U.S.C. § 208 and in his capacity as a special government employee, to your knowledge, has Mr. Musk or is Mr. Musk currently participating "personally and substantially as a Government officer or employee, through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation, or otherwise, in a judicial or other proceeding, application, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, charge, accusation, arrest, or other particular matter in which, to his knowledge, he, his spouse, minor child, general partner, organization in which he is serving as officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee, or any person or organization with whom he is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment, has a financial interest"?

3. Did the Office of Government Ethics consult with and provide advice to the White House regarding Mr. Musk's private financial interests *prior* to Mr. Musk's appointment as a special government employee?

4. To your knowledge, did any White House official issue a written waiver exempting Mr. Musk from the penalties set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 208?

    a. If so and in OGE's possession, please produce a written copy of the waiver, the date you were made aware of the waiver, and clarify whether the waiver was issued pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or (b)(3).

b. If such a written waiver was issued *after* Mr. Musk's appointment as a special government employee, please clarify that Mr. Musk did not act in any official capacity prior to the issuance of the waiver.

5. Please provide the same information requested above for any other type of ethics waiver Mr. Musk received, including authorizations to participate pursuant to 5 C.F.R. 2635.502(d) or waivers issued pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 13103(h).

Mr. Musk's activities, access to sensitive federal government information, and potential financial conflicts of interest also raise significant questions about Mr. Musk's foreign entanglements and the activities and possible conflicts of other individuals associated with the "Department of Government Efficiency," which will be the focus of forthcoming requests for information and records that are needed for the U.S. Senate to exercise its essential oversight and legislative functions.

Sincerely,



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

cc: Susan Wiles
White House Chief of Staff

ADAM B. SCHIFF
UNITED STATES SENATOR
CALIFORNIA

112 HART SENATE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

February 10, 2025

Susan Wiles
White House Chief of Staff
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Wiles,

I am writing to request that the White House clarify Elon Musk's compliance with federal conflicts of interest, ethics, and reporting requirements in light of his activities within the Executive Office of the President since January 20, 2025, and his access to sensitive government information while he retains significant financial interests in multiple private companies that benefit from federal government contracts.

According to a White House official, Mr. Musk is serving in the Administration as a "special government employee," which makes him subject to the federal criminal conflict of interest statute, as well as other legal and ethical obligations.[1] The federal criminal conflict of interest statute, in particular, prohibits government employees, including special government employees, from participating personally and substantially in official matters where they have a financial interest.[2]

Mr. Musk holds substantial financial interests in private companies, including Tesla, Inc., SpaceX, The Boring Company, xAI, X Corp., and Neuralink. According to public reporting, Tesla, Inc. and SpaceX alone account over the past decade for at least $15.4 billion in government contracts across a dozen agencies.[3] Mr. Musk's companies have also been the subject of at least 20 recent investigations or reviews by federal agencies, which heightens the risk that Mr. Musk may seek to use his new position to shield his companies from federal scrutiny.[4]

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[1] Kaitlan Collins & Tierney Sneed, *Elon Musk is serving as a 'special government employee,' White House says,* CNN (February 3, 2025), https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/03/politics/musk-government-employee/index.html.
[2] 18 U.S.C. § 208. *See* U.S. Office of Government Ethics, "Analyzing Potential Conflicts of Interest," https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Resources/Analyzing+Potential+Conflicts+of+Interest.
[3] Eric Lipton, David A. Fahrenthold, Aaron Krolik & Kirsten Grind, *U.S. Agencies Fund, and Fight With, Elon Musk. A Trump Presidency Could Give Him Power Over Them,* (October 20, 2024), https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/20/us/politics/elon-musk-federal-agencies-contracts.html.
[4] *Id.*

On February 5, 2025, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt stated at a press briefing: "If Elon Musk comes across a conflict of interest with the contracts and the funding that DOGE is overseeing, then Elon will excuse himself from those contracts." Notwithstanding this assertion, Mr. Musk's compliance with federal conflicts of interest and other related obligations remains unknown to Congress and the public. For instance, unless you or another senior White House official, in consultation with the Office of Government Ethics, provided a written waiver *prior* to Mr. Musk's appointment as a special government employee, Mr. Musk may have violated the federal criminal conflict of interest statute by undertaking acts otherwise prohibited by law.

To ensure transparency, which is essential to maintaining congressional and public trust, and to inform the Senate's legislative function, including to review the applicability of existing statutes and consider possible reforms to further strengthen them, please respond to the following questions by February 13, 2025:

1. Has Mr. Musk completed a financial disclosure report, consistent with 5 U.S.C. §13103?

2. Consistent with 18 U.S.C. § 208 and in his capacity as a special government employee, has Mr. Musk or is Mr. Musk currently participating "personally and substantially as a Government officer or employee, through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation, or otherwise, in a judicial or other proceeding, application, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, charge, accusation, arrest, or other particular matter in which, to his knowledge, he, his spouse, minor child, general partner, organization in which he is serving as officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee, or any person or organization with whom he is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment, has a financial interest"?

3. Did you or any other White House official consult with the Office of Government Ethics regarding Mr. Musk's private financial interests *prior* to Mr. Musk's appointment as a special government employee?

4. Did you or any other White House official issue Mr. Musk a written waiver exempting him from the penalties set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 208?

    a. If so, please produce a written copy of the waiver, the date the waiver was issued, and clarify whether the waiver was issued pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or (b)(3).

    b. If such a written waiver does not exist, please explain your determination that such a waiver has not been and is not currently necessary.

c. If such a written waiver was issued *after* Mr. Musk's appointment as a special government employee, please provide written verification that Mr. Musk did not act in any official capacity prior to the issuance of the waiver.

5. Please provide the same information requested above for any other type of ethics waiver Mr. Musk received, including authorizations to participate pursuant to 5 C.F.R. 2635.502(d) or waivers issued pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 13103(h).

Mr. Musk's activities, access to sensitive federal government information, and potential financial conflicts of interest also raise significant questions about Mr. Musk's foreign entanglements and the activities and possible conflicts of other individuals associated with the "Department of Government Efficiency," which will be the focus of forthcoming requests for information and records that are needed for the U.S. Senate to exercise its essential oversight and legislative functions.

Sincerely,



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

cc: Director David Huitema
U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Attachment is located here: https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/11/us/politics/elon-musk-finances.html

From: Elizabeth D. Horton
To: Agency Wide
Subject: Legislative Update for Wednesday, February 12, 2025
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 11:46:08 AM
Attachments: Elon Musk's Financial Disclosure Will Not Be Made Public - The New York Times.pdf

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The Senate convened at 10:00 a.m.

According to *CQ*, the Senate convened at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Tulsi Gabbard to be director of National Intelligence, post-cloture. At 11 a.m., the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Gabbard nomination and on agreeing to the Thune, R-S.D., motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to be secretary of Health and Human Services.

The House reconvenes at 12:00 p.m.

According to *CQ*, the House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 77) that would allow a new Congress to disapprove en bloc multiple regulations issued by a president in the final year they're in office.

Legislative and Related News

FEDManager reports on the possibility of a government shutdown in March. As Shutdown Fears Grow, House, Senate Republicans at Odds on How to Proceed in Funding Fight

Roll Call reports that some House members are plowing ahead with a budget resolution markup before the chamber's scheduled one-week recess begins on Friday. House GOP preps all-in-one budget blueprint for committee vote

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Multiple outlets report on the removal of OGE's Director and the Secretary of Veteran Affairs, Doug Collins, being named as acting head. OGE Director Is Latest Firing among Oversight Officials (FEDweek); With firings and lax enforcement, Trump moving to dismantle government's public integrity guardrails (WHYY); VA Secretary Doug Collins to temporarily head 2 watchdog offices (UPI); In the Trump administration, some officials are doing more than one job (MSNBC); Legalizing Corruption (Outside the Beltway); Judge Temporarily Reinstates Fired Ethics Watchdog (Newsmax); VA secretary tapped to temporarily lead 2 federal oversight offices (Federal Times)

MSNBC and *CNN* report on the President's ability to dismiss federal officials. Can Trump simply dismiss federal officials as he pleases? (MSNBC); Is there anyone in government Trump can't fire? Why Humphrey's Executor may be in peril at the Supreme Court (CNN)

Politico reports that eight inspectors general, abruptly fired last month by President Trump, are suing to get their jobs back, saying Trump broke the law by failing to give Congress a 30-day heads up and concrete explanation for the dismissals. Federal watchdogs fired by Trump urge court to reinstate them

Additional outlets report on conflict of interest concerns surrounding Elon Musk. Elon Musk's business empire scores benefits under Trump shake-up (Deccan Herald); Musk Just Scored More Government Cash While Pushing Education Cuts (The Lever); Musk Targets His Companies' Regulators (The Lever); Elon Musk's DOGE takes aim at agency that had plans of regulating X (NPR); Does Elon Musk's government work create conflict in bid to buy OpenAI? (The National

Desk); Elon Musk is waging war on a key check on his business empire (CNN); Is Elon Musk taking over the US government? Here's how 'state capture' works – and why we should be concerned (The Conversation); Trump, Musk 'violating the law right and left': Former White House ethics czar (The Hill)

Multiple outlets report on Elon Musk's response to concerns about conflicts of interest. Musk touts DOGE transparency but downplays his own potential conflicts of interest (CNN); Internet Left Baffled as Musk Claims Americans Are Responsible for Calling Out His Conflicts of Interest: 'So Basically 'Trust Me Bro" (The Latin Times); Musk says he has no conflict of interest with the Pentagon (Good Morning America); 'Our actions are maximumly transparent': Elon Musk responds to DOGE conflict of interest concerns (MSN); Elon Musk Defends Government Role Amid Conflict Of Interest Concerns (Inkl); Musk appears at White House defending DOGE's work but acknowledging mistakes (The Washington Post)

Multiple outlets report on the confidentiality of Elon Musk's financial disclosure report. WH: Musk's Financial Disclosure Report Won't Be Released (Newsmax); Elon Musk Exempt From Public Financial Disclosure Requirements (Inkl); Elon Musk's Financial Disclosure Will Not Be Made Public (The New York Times) (attached)

Federal Agency and Related News

The Hill reports that the Office of Personnel Management is instructing agencies that they do not have to fire all federal employees still on probation but is encouraging them to remove any low performers. OPM eases plans to target all federal workers on probation

FEDManager reports that the Trump Administration ordered agencies to turn over data employee performance and identify any barriers that exist to removing them. OPM Orders Agencies to Submit Data on "Low Performers"

Multiple outlets report that President Trump is directing agency heads to prepare for reductions-in-force, giving them 30 days to submit reorganization plans as part of a new attempt to downsize the federal government. Trump EO directs agencies to submit reorganization plans, prepare for RIFs (Federal News Network); Trump orders agencies to plan for widespread layoffs and attrition-based hiring (Government Executive); Trump executive order vows substantial cuts to federal workforce (The Washington Post); 'A Complete Takeover': New Trump Order Entrenches Musk-Led 'Shadow Government' (Common Dreams); With Elon Musk watching, Trump says he's giving DOGE even more power (NBC News); Trump empowers Musk by ordering agencies to cooperate with Doge (The Guardian); Elon Musk defends DOGE in Oval Office as Trump orders agencies to comply with cuts (CBS News)

Politico reports that the Office of Personnel Management has formally submitted draft regulations that would make it easier for agencies to fire career government officials who push back against presidential orders. Trump administration submits regulations to weaken federal worker protections

Next Scheduled Recess:

Senate: Feb. 14 - 17
House: Feb. 14 - 21

From: Grant Anderson
To: Agency Wide
Subject: Legislative Update for Friday, February 14, 2025
Date: Friday, February 14, 2025 2:06:50 PM
Attachments: [redacted]

The Senate and House meet in pro forma sessions.

Legislative and Related News

The Hill reports on the possibility of a full-year CR. Johnson leaves door open to full-year funding stopgap

Roll Call reports that the Senate has confirmed Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to be HHS Secretary and Brooke Rollins to be Agriculture secretary. Senate confirms RFK Jr. for HHS secretary; Rollins confirmed as Agriculture secretary

The Hill reports on lawsuits (attached) alleging Elon Musk's role as DOGE head violates the Appointments Clause of the Constitution since he has not been confirmed by the Senate. States sue Musk and Trump, calling billionaire's role unconstitutional

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

USA Today reports on Elon Musk's financial disclosure. Elon Musk has to fill out a public financial disclosure, legal experts say. Where is it?

Politico publishes President Trump's remarks (24 seconds) in response to a question about Elon Musk and conflicts. *Business Standard* reports on Musk's meeting with India's Prime Minister and President Trump's comments (1 minute). Trump says no new contracts for Musk if there's 'conflict of interest' (Politico); 'I assume he wants to do business in India': Trump on Modi-Musk meeting (Business Standard)

Additional outlets report on Elon Musk and conflict concerns. Sen. Blumenthal demanding answers about possible $400 million State Department purchase of Tesla Cybertrucks (CBS); With Attack on Consumer Bureau, Musk Removes Obstacle to His 'X Money' Vision (NYT); DOGE software approval alarms Labor Department employees (NBC); 'That's like a formula for corruption': Rep. Mark Pocan on Elon Musk's federal contracts (WPR); Meng sounds alarm on Elon Musk and DOGE's access to NASA (Rep. Meng)

WSJ reports on the President and his family's recent earnings, noting that "Trump's share of a $10 million settlement Elon Musk's X agreed to this week is expected to go to him directly." The article (attached) also quotes OGE's former director. First lady's documentary deal with Amazon, president's legal settlements and other transactions near $80 million so far

Multiple outlets report on prosecutors in DOJ's Public Integrity Section resigning. How Trump's Justice Department has gutted the government's ability to chase public corruption (CNN); Trump Official's Demand in Adams Case Forces Justice Dept. Showdown (NYT); Top N.Y. prosecutor, others resign after order to drop Eric Adams case (WP)

Reuters reports on the financial disclosure and ethics agreement filed by Todd Blanche to be deputy AG. Trump lawyer Blanche reveals income, clients in bid for DOJ post

Nasdaq reports on cabinet members' finances. Inside the Financial Profiles of Trump's Cabinet Members, Worth Almost $12 Billion

Akin Gump reports on ethics rules for appointees. Ethics Changes for Trump Administration Appointees

Federal Agency and Related News

FNN reports on a lawsuit (27 pages) alleging the administration's moves to initiate reductions-in-force -- through firing employees who are considered "nonessential" for purposes of a government shutdown and those who are in probationary status -- are illegal. Additional outlets report on fired federal workers. Trump administration directs agency heads to fire most probationary staff (WP); Thousands fired in US government as Trump, Musk purge federal workers (NY Post); Trump administration fires thousands of federal workers (Politico); Trump administration directs agencies to fire recent hires en masse (Gov Exec); Lawsuit challenges Trump's order for 'large scale' RIFs (FNN); 'We need to delete entire agencies': Elon Musk has bigger plans for remaking the government (Politico)

Next Scheduled Recess:

Senate: Feb. 14-17
House: Feb. 14-21

Attachment released below

From: Contact OGE
To: LEGTEAM
Subject: FW: Senate Letter to the White House
Date: Monday, March 17, 2025 7:47:21 AM
Attachments: 2025.03.17 Letter to Trump Administration on Corruption.pdf

Good morning. Please see the attached letter from Senator Warren's office.
Thank you,
Courtney

From: Franklin, Imani (Warren) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 12:42 AM
To: (b)(6) James Braid email address; (b)(6) Pace McMullan email address
Cc: Sciales, Ellen (Warren) <(b)(6)>; Cohen, Brian (Warren) <(b)(6)>; Laporte-Oshiro, Catherine (Warren) <(b)(6)>
Subject: Senate Letter to the White House

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Dear James and Pace,

Please find attached a letter from Senator Elizabeth Warren and her colleagues to Chief of Staff Susie Wiles. Please confirm receipt.

Best,
Imani

--
Imani Franklin
Counsel
Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren
(b)(6) phone number
She/her

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2025

Susie Wiles
White House Chief of Staff
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Susie Wiles:

Congress has broad authority to conduct oversight of the President and the Executive Branch to inform the legislative process and ensure that the Executive Branch is faithfully executing the laws Congress passes. Widespread conflicts of interest erode public confidence in that faithful execution and open the door to corruption — which, in turn, undermines the President's agenda. We write today to exercise our oversight responsibility regarding the fact that President Trump's administration has, in less than two months, been overwhelmed with conflicts of interest and corruption. We request that his Administration provide written assurances that it will immediately remediate the worst violations and take steps to address future concerns.

Despite President Trump's promises to fight for working families, he has appointed a string of corporate billionaires and industry insiders, putting them in positions to enrich themselves at the expense of ordinary Americans. And despite his 2017 promise to not "take advantage of" the presidency,[1] he has degraded the dignity of the office by using the tools of the federal government to drive customers to his businesses. Meanwhile, his unelected "co-president" Elon Musk is relentlessly attacking and disarming federal agencies that regulate his companies, even as his companies have benefited from billions in federal contracts.

Corruption scandals were a feature of President Trump's first term. He earned millions from foreign governments and special interest groups that visited his properties, and he "turned the U.S. Secret Service into an ATM for his personal enrichment."[2] Meanwhile, his appointees stood to profit from policies they set. From Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross who oversaw natural gas export policy while maintaining a large stake in a gas shipping company,[3] to Betsy DeVos who

[1] New York Times, "An Ethical Minefield Awaits a Possible Second Trump Presidency," Ben Protess, Maggie Haberman, and Eric Lipton, October 29, 2024, https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/29/us/elections/trump-foreign-business-presidency-conflicts.html.

[2] House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, "Oversight Democrats' New Report Proves Trump Used His D.C. Hotel to Take Unconstitutional Domestic Emoluments, Fleecing the Taxpayers," press release, October 18, 2024, https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/news/press-releases/oversight-democrats-new-report-proves-trump-used-his-dc-hotel-take.

[3] The American Prospect, "Mapping Corruption: Donald Trump's Executive Branch," Jim Lardner, April 9, 2020, https://prospect.org/power/mapping-corruption-donald-trump-executive-branch/; NBC News, "Trump's Chinese Gas Deals Raises Ethics Issues for Wilbur Ross," Suzy Khimm, November 8, 2017, https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/trump-s-chinese-gas-deal-raises-ethics-issues-wilbur-ross-n818861; Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, "Has Commerce Secretary Ross resolved all potential conflicts of interest?" Eden Tadesse, John Morgan, and Virginia Canter, November 1, 2017,

led the Department of Education while maintaining a multi-million-dollar stake in a child "brain performance" company, President Trump's nominees enriched themselves using leverage they gained in their public service jobs.[4] Multiple members of the Trump administration resigned under a cloud of ethics concerns, including his Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald who purchased stock in a tobacco company while leading public health policy[5] and William Wehrum who faced allegations that he improperly assisted his former coal and oil industry clients while serving as President Trump's top air policy official at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).[6] The list goes on.[7]

Less than two months into President Trump's second term, his new administration is already beating his earlier record of corruption.[8] His appointees are former lobbyists, billionaire chief executive officers (CEOs), and stockholders with a direct financial stake in their own policy work. He has appointed lobbyists to lead the agencies they recently lobbied — from former airline lobbyist Sean Duffy to lead the nation's transportation policy[9] to crypto lobbyist Paul Atkins to lead securities regulation.[10] Similar, he has appointed industry executives to lead the agencies that regulate their businesses,[11] such as fracking company CEO Chris Wright to lead the Energy Department,[12] hedge fund executive Scott Bessent to lead the Treasury Department,[13] and Martin Makary, executive of a company that produces a weight-loss drug, to lead the Food and Drug Administration.[14] Meanwhile, several of President Trump's picks own lucrative stock holdings in companies that contract with their agencies — such as Defense Secretary Pete

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Hegseth whose household owns stock in large defense contractors and who has not agreed to take sufficient steps to mitigate those conflicts.[15] Others with a financial stake in their own work have simply given the stake to their adult children, thereby maintaining an indirect financial interest, including Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.[16]

Meanwhile, President Trump's own business ventures have grown to a scale that makes the conflict-of-interest concerns from his first administration "seem almost quaint" in comparison.[17] He has acquired a publicly traded social media company, Truth Social, that — until his meme coin launch — accounted for most of his wealth.[18] He asserted that he has "NO INTENTION OF SELLING!" Truth Social,[19] and instead transferred shares into a trust controlled by his son.[20] And despite previously calling crypto a "scam," President Trump has become a crypto salesman.[21] In the past year, he has launched a cryptocurrency business, World Liberty Financial,[22] and on January 18, 2025, he released the $TRUMP meme coin — which earned his family and business partners close to $100 million in trading fees alone in less than 14 days on the market.[23] Foreign entities that seek to sway his foreign policy decisions can invest in both his

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crypto and social media companies.[24] Indeed, President Trump has received over $50 million from a Chinese national who purchased his crypto tokens and who has been facing fraud charges brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) — although, since President Trump took office, the SEC has taken steps to discontinue that prosecution.[25]

President Trump has also enlarged his network of foreign real estate ventures, with new properties, golf courses, and more in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Vietnam, India, and other countries whose cooperation his businesses depend on[26] — giving foreign governments leverage to sway his foreign policy decisions.[27] He has also sought to grow his portfolio of domestic real estate. For example, the Trump Organization is currently seeking to buy back the former Trump Hotel in DC that, during his first term, became the "'epicenter' of corruption" for foreign dignitaries and "anyone looking to 'curry favor'" with him — which raised serious questions about whether he violated the Constitution's Foreign Emoluments Clause.[28] And perhaps his most well-known property, Mar-a-Lago, has turned into a well-oiled pay-to-play machine. Membership fees have skyrocketed five-fold since 2017,[29] and elites can pay millions of dollars for private access to the

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President over dinner.[30] President Trump continues to refuse to divest from this maze of business interests, although every other American president in the modern era has done so.[31] Even former Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, whose businesses the President often points to as precedent,[32] agreed to take "whatever steps are necessary" to resolve potential conflicts of interests, undergoing months of intense congressional hearings about the conflicts and releasing tax returns from a dozen years to address ethics concerns.[33]

Perhaps most concerning, President Trump has ceded power to the world's richest man, Elon Musk, who stands to profit from the Department of Government Efficiency's (DOGE) attempts to raze the executive branch. Since President Trump took office, at least 11 of the agencies with "investigations, pending complaints or enforcement actions" against Musk's companies have been hamstrung, including through the firing of the agencies' independent commissioners and rolling back the agencies' independence.[34] Meanwhile, Musk's companies — which have already received at least $38 billion in federal funding[35] — are vying for new federal contracts. For example, it appears that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) may cancel a $2.4 billion contract that it awarded to Verizon in 2023 to upgrade a communications platform for air traffic control facilities, and the FAA plans to pay Musk's Starlink to help manage U.S. airspace.[36]

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Meanwhile, the State Department announced that it would pay over $400 million to purchase vehicles from Musk's Tesla; following public outcry, the Department announced it was pausing that purchase (though documentation creates some ambiguity about the Department's current plans).[37] In addition, Musk is pushing to privatize functions performed by companies in which he has a financial stake. For example, he is insisting that agencies increase their reliance on artificial intelligence while simultaneously building out the AI arm of X (formerly Twitter) and seeking to buy OpenAI, the founder of ChatGPT.[38] And he appears to be angling for the FAA to privatize portions of the air traffic control system in which his company SpaceX has an interest.[39] Musk has done all of this without so much as disclosing his financial interests to the public.[40]

At the same time that President Trump's own conflicts and those of his team are on the rise, he is decapitating the watchdog offices responsible for enforcing public integrity standards in the executive branch. In just his first three weeks in office, he attempted to fire at least 17 Inspectors General who were working to root corruption out of federal agencies.[41] That attempt is currently being litigated.[42] Furthermore, President Trump fired the head of the Office of Special Counsel (OSC), which investigates prohibited practices like nepotism, racial discrimination, and unauthorized political activity by federal workers.[43] The Trump administration also reassigned responsibility for the Department of Justice's (DOJ) ethics oversight away from DOJ's top career official and gave it to President Trump's former criminal defense lawyer and an early-career

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political staffer.[44] Finally, President Trump became the first president in history to fire the director of the Office of Government Ethics (OGE), the primary office responsible for mitigating conflicts of interest in the executive branch.[45]

These immense financial conflicts of interest have real-world stakes for the American public. President Trump, Musk, and his appointees have multiple incentives to funnel taxpayer dollars to their own pockets, even if it means hurting the American workers President Trump claims to champion. This risk is not hypothetical. For example, during his last term, President Trump approved the Sprint-T-Mobile merger that was called "bad for ordinary Americans but suspiciously good for Donald Trump," as T-Mobile "suddenly became a big customer at his hotels once it needed approval for [its] merger."[46] Similarly, his administration sided with the payday lending industry in opposing a rule to protect consumers around the same time that the industry hosted its conventions at his hotel, earning him $1 million.[47] And this time, President Trump, Musk, and his appointees will be able to put their thumbs on the scale of even more policy decisions to enrich themselves. For example, as President Trump works to erode the independence of the Federal Communications Commission, he enhances his ability to pressure it to treat social media sites like Truth Social more leniently or to target disfavored media

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companies.[48] Meanwhile, Musk is now sending inexperienced SpaceX employees to rapidly change the FAA in ways that could enrich himself and his own SpaceX business while making air travel less safe for everyone.[49] Furthermore, President Trump and Commerce Secretary Lutnick, whose firm is a major crypto investor, can discourage financial regulation of cryptocurrencies, even as unregulated crypto markets present warning signs of a bubble that could lead to another financial crash.[50]

These conflicts are real, but President Trump has done virtually nothing to mitigate them. During his last term, a week after taking office, he released an executive order requiring appointees to agree to an ethics pledge.[51] But now, over a month into his second term, President Trump has still not issued any such pledge — though the past three presidential administrations did so.[52] Furthermore, although the Trump Organization released a 2025 "ethics plan" for managing the President's personal conflicts of interest,[53] that plan is paper thin when stacked against his myriad conflicts of interest.[54] President Trump has placed his assets into a trust that is managed by his children instead of an independent trustee.[55] The trust is revocable (meaning he can regain access to the assets at any time) and he is its sole beneficiary.[56] The Trump Organization's plan allows him to continue to receive "general business updates" that may sway his decision-making on policy.[57] The plan also adopts more lenient standards than its 2017 predecessor.[58] And under the plan, he can continue to buy and sell assets without so much as a review by the Trump

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[48] The White House, "Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Reins in Independent Agencies to Restore a Government that Answers to the American People," press release, February 18, 2025, https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/02/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-reins-in-independent-agencies-to-restore-a-government-that-answers-to-the-american-people/; The Guardian, "'A true free-speech emergency': alarm over Trump's 'chilling' attacks on media," Adam Gabbatt, February 24, 2025, https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/24/trump-free-speech-media-attack.

[49] WIRED, "These Are the SpaceX Engineers Already Working Inside the FAA," Vittoria Elliot and Aarian Marshall, February 19, 2025, https://www.wired.com/story/faa-doge-elon-musk-space-x/.

[50] Wall Street Journal, "Cantor Fitzgerald Holds Tether Convertible Bond, Howard Lutnick Says," Angus Berwick, January 29, 2025, https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/fed-interest-rate-tesla-meta-earnings-01-29-2025/card/sen-warren-presses-howard-lutnick-on-tether-ties-before-confirmation-hearing-cEvRGcskZwmj7N8FuOjk; The Atlantic, "The Great Crypto Crash," Annie Lowrey, January 7, 2025, https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2025/01/cryptocurrency-deregulation-future-crash/681202/; Barron's, "4 Signs That a Crypto Bubble Is Forming—and How It Could Burst," Jack Denton, February 2, 2023, https://www.barrons.com/articles/bitcoin-crypto-bubble-warning-signs-51675292698; New York Times, "Trump Rolls out his New Cryptocurrency Business," David Yaffe-Bellany, Sharon LaFraniere, and Matthew Goldstein, September 16, 2024, https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/16/technology/trump-crypto-world-liberty-financial.html.

[51] The White House Archives, "Executive Order: Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees," January 28, 2017, https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-ethics-commitments-executive-branch-appointees/.

[52] Citizens for Responsible Ethics in Washington, "Biden, Trump and Obama ethics pledges, compared," Virginia Canter, February 9, 2021, https://www.citizensforethics.org/reports-investigations/crew-reports/biden-ethics-pledge-compared-obama-trump/.

[53] Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, "White Paper: President Trump's Second Term In Office," January 10, 2025, https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/ea6760794c5e7239/0b5172f7-full.pdf.

[54] Executive Functions, "The Meme Coin Is Just the Beginning," Bob Bauer, January 27, 2025, https://substack.com/home/post/p-155776681.

[55] Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, "White Paper: President Trump's Second Term In Office," January 10, 2025, p. 4, https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/ea6760794c5e7239/0b5172f7-full.pdf.

[56] New York Times, "Trump Puts $4 Billion in Shares of His Media Company in a Trust," Matthew Goldstein, December 20, 2024, https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/20/business/trump-media-donald-trump-trust.html.

Organization's Ethics Advisor as long as the deal is worth less than $10 million.[59] Finally, unlike during his first term — when the Trump Organization vowed that "[n]o new foreign deals will be made whatsoever during the duration of President Trump's presidency"[60] — this time, his organization is opening the door to new deals with foreign private actors while he is president.[61] Indeed, President Trump recently expressed interest in "clean[ing] out" the Gaza Strip and forcing out its people to make way for real estate developments that would capitalize on Gaza's "phenomenal location, on the sea."[62]

Even now, it is not too late for President Trump to reverse course and put our national interests ahead of his personal dealings.

To do so, we ask that he not just pay lip service to anti-corruption values but instead take the following steps[63]:

- First, reinstate the government watchdogs who President Trump purportedly fired, including all Inspectors General, the OGE Director, and the OSC Director, and commit to protecting those offices from further political interference.
- Second, thoroughly vet potential nominees for all conflicts of interest and refuse to appoint anyone who would enter with clear conflicts that existing recusal and divestment rules alone cannot resolve.
- Third, promptly issue an ethics pledge that is at least as robust as the Biden ethics pledge or President Trump's own pledge from 2017,[64] and ensure robust enforcement.
- Fourth, as every other president in the modern era has done, President Trump should divest from his business holdings, in this case by either liquidating the Trump Organization assets or placing them in a truly blind trust operated by an independent

[57] Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, "White Paper: President Trump's Second Term In Office," January 10, 2025, p. 4, https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/ea6760794c5e7239/0b5172f7-full.pdf.
[58] Executive Functions, "The Meme Coin Is Just the Beginning," Bob Bauer, January 27, 2025, https://substack.com/home/post/p-155776681.
[59] Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, "White Paper: President Trump's Second Term In Office," January 10, 2025, p. 3-4, https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/ea6760794c5e7239/0b5172f7-full.pdf.
[60] New York Times, "It 'Falls Short in Every Respect': Ethics Experts Pan Trump's Conflicts Plan," Karen Yourish and Larry Buchanan, January 12, 2017, https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/01/12/us/politics/ethics-experts-trumps-conflicts-of-interest.html.
[61] New York Times, "Trump Organization Plans an Ethics Policy Without Banning Foreign Deals," Eric Lipton, Ben Protess, and David Yaffe-Bellany, December 5, 2024, https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/05/us/politics/trump-organization-ethics-policy-foreign-deals.html; Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, "White Paper: President Trump's Second Term In Office," January 10, 2025, p. 4, https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/ea6760794c5e7239/0b5172f7-full.pdf.
[62] CNN, "Trump says he's 'not confident' Gaza ceasefire will hold," Lucas Lilieholm and Mick Krever, January 21, 2025, https://www.cnn.com/2025/01/21/world/trump-not-confident-gaza-ceasefire-intl/index.html; AP News, "Trump wants Jordan and Egypt to accept more Palestinian refugees and floats plan to 'clean out' Gaza," Zeke Miller and Will Weissert, January 26, 2025, https://apnews.com/article/trump-biden-israel-bomb-gaza-hamas-war-023b36984c6116c128b5e47f117bba2a.
[63] New York Times, "An Ethical Minefield Awaits a Possible Second Trump Presidency," Ben Protess, Maggie Haberman, and Eric Lipton, October 29, 2024, https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/29/us/elections/trump-foreign-business-presidency-conflicts.html.
[64] Office of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, Letter to Howard Lutnick and Linda McMahon, January 17, 2025, https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/warren_letter_re_trump_transition_ethics.pdf.

trustee who is instructed to divest the assets and reinvest the proceeds in other holdings so that the President does not know what the trust contains. He should also disclose his tax returns from the past three years.

- Finally, President Trump should revoke Mr. Musk's power to profit from his efforts to manipulate the executive branch for his own benefit. Mr. Musk should also be required to promptly release his financial disclosure form so that the public can understand his potential conflicts of interest.[65]

The American people deserve a presidential administration that governs exclusively in the public's interest. We urge President Trump and the wealthy elites to whom he has handed governing power to make good on his promise to put America first, above his and their own self-interest.

We request that the White House respond to the following questions by March 31, 2025:

1. Will President Trump commit to reinstate all government watchdogs he has purportedly fired and to protect their independence from political interference, including inspectors general and the heads of the Office of Government Ethics, Office of Special Counsel, and Merit Systems Protection Board?
2. Will President Trump commit not to appoint additional officials whose personal finances or professional ties present direct conflicts of interest that cannot be resolved by corrective actions under existing ethics law?
3. Will President Trump issue an ethics pledge requiring nominees to commit to ethics requirements, as he did during his first term?
4. Will President Trump commit to divest from his private business interests, as every prior president in the modern era has done?
5. Will President Trump commit to disclose his tax returns from the past three years?
6. Will President Trump require Mr. Musk to publicly release his financial disclosure form?

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

[65] Office of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, Letter to Elon Musk regarding public disclosure, February 13, 2025, https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_to_musk_republicfinancialdisclosure.pdf.

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Cc: Offices of Inspectors General

From: Leah C. Stromberg
To: ELDD MailGroup
Subject: (b) (5)
Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 7:55:19 AM

Hi GCLPD,



Let me know if you have any questions/thoughts or want to chat about this case.

Thanks,

Leah

From: Jennifer Matis
To: Agency Wide
Subject: Legislative Update for Wednesday, April 30, 2025
Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 2:55:05 PM

The Senate convened at 10:00 a.m.

According to *CQ*, the Senate convened at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the joint resolution (H J Res 42) related to the Energy Department's appliance energy efficiency certification rule. At 11:30 a.m., the Senate will vote on passage of H J Res 42.

The House convened at 12:00 p.m.

According to *CQ*, the House reconvened at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider H J Res 87 that would nullify the EPA waivers that grant California's request for its Heavy-Duty Warranties and its Advanced Clean Truck regulations, H J Res 88 that would nullify the EPA waiver that grants California's request for its Advanced Clean Cars II regulations, and H J Res 89 that would nullify the EPA waiver that grants California's request for its for its Heavy-Duty Omnibus Low NOx regulations.

Legislative and Related News

The Hill reports that House Republicans moved on Tuesday to block Democrats from forcing votes on resolutions of inquiry into potential conflicts of interest involving Elon Musk and other controversial topics. House GOP blocks Democrats from forcing votes on Signal scandal, Musk conflicts of interest

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Government Executive reports that a DOGE employee tasked with implementing RIFs at CFPB owns stock in companies overseen by the agency. The information came from the employee's public financial disclosure report. The article goes into some detail about divestment and recusal and OGE's legal memo LA-22-04. A DOGE aide involved in CFPB cuts owns stock prohibited by ethics laws

ABC News reports that Democratic lawmakers are calling for the White House to issue a full disclosure of financial transactions leading up to President Donald Trump's pause on a sweeping set of tariffs earlier this month, raising concerns that people close to the President "potentially violated federal ethics and insider trading laws. Democrats press White House over potential 'insider trading' before Trump tariff pause

Federal Agency and Related News

Federal News Network reports that a majority of Americans continue to show support for federal employees. Majority of public holds favorable view of federal employees, survey shows

Next Scheduled Recess:
Senate: May 26-30
House: May 2

From: Grant Anderson
To: Agency Wide
Subject: Legislative Update for Friday, May 2, 2025
Date: Friday, May 2, 2025 1:30:31 PM
Attachments: [redacted] Attachments are nonresponsive records
Letter to WH Counsel (4 pages).pdf Attachment released below

The Senate and House are not in session.

Legislative and Related News

Politico reports on the WH FY26 budget request to Congress. Trump's budget asks Congress for unprecedented federal funding cuts

Roll Call reports on VP Vance's tie-breaking Senate vote on tariffs. Senate rejects resolution to stop tariffs

Multiple outlets report on congressional letters (attached) related to Elon Musk and conflicts of interest. House Democrats demand Musk financial disclosure from White House (The Hill); Democrats Call for Probe Into 'Golden Dome' Defense Contract That Could Benefit Musk (Common Dreams); Oversight Democrats Escalate Investigation into Elon Musk's Conflicts of Interest (House Oversight)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Katie Couric publishes an opinion piece about conflicts of interest by a Harvard professor, who notes "it is important to create offices and procedures with staff dedicated to monitoring and mitigating conflicts of interest. In the executive branch, the seventy-some staff at the Office of Government Ethics, and many more ethics officers across the federal government, regulate conflicts of interest and other ethical issues." What are Conflicts of Interest and What Can Be Done About Them?

The Intercept reports on the ethics agreement filed by the Army Under Secretary nominee, who will retain Anduril stock and "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 Anduril Industries." Trump's Pick for a Top Army Job Works at a Weapons Company - and Won't Give up his Stock

Multiple outlets report on an Abu Dhabi firm making a $2 billion deal using a Trump-affiliated digital coin and ethics concerns. At a Dubai Conference, Trump's Conflicts Take Center Stage (NYT); New Trump crypto deal raises ethics questions (ABC); Trump's stablecoin chosen for @2 billion Abu Dhabi investment (Reuters)

Next Scheduled Recess:

Senate: April 14-25
House: April 11-25

JAMES COMER, KENTUCKY
CHAIRMAN

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

GERALD E. CONNOLLY, VIRGINIA
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6143
MAJORITY (202) 225–5074
MINORITY (202) 225–5051
https://oversight.house.gov

May 1, 2025

Mr. David Warrington
White House Counsel
Office of White House Counsel
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Warrington,

We write regarding the scope of duties Elon Musk is undertaking as a special government employee (SGE) and the deeply alarming conflicts of interest presented by his expansive position. In an unprecedented arrangement, President Donald Trump has bestowed expansive and unlawful authority to Mr. Musk, an unelected billionaire. Mr. Musk is redirecting billions of taxpayer dollars to fund his own financial interests while slashing federal employees, programs, and services on which all Americans depend. Mr. Musk also remains in charge of a sprawling private-sector business empire that continues to rely on billions of dollars in government funding and has been charged with managing his own conflicts of interest.[1] The Trump Administration has failed to make public Mr. Musk's financial disclosure filings, hiding the true extent of his conflicts from the public. We request that you provide a copy of Mr. Musk's statutorily required financial disclosure, as well as the written determination by the official who determined Mr. Musk's various conflicts of interest were considered and deemed to be too remote or inconsequential to affect the integrity of Mr. Musk's service.

Federal financial disclosure requirements differ depending on the seniority of the employee, but generally require that government officials disclose their financial interests to "ensure confidence in the integrity of the federal government by demonstrating that they are able to carry out their duties without compromising the public trust."[2] While high-level officials are required to file public financial disclosures, certain other less-senior employees may file confidential disclosures.[3]

The law is clear that federal employees—including SGEs—may not participate in government matters in which they have a financial interest.[4] Government ethics law requires that:

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[1] *Is Elon Musk's Government Role Unconstitutional? What the Supreme Court Might Say*, ABC News (Feb. 17, 2025) (online at https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/elon-musks-government-role-unconstitutional-supreme-court/story?id=118846052*); White House Says Musk Will Police His Own Conflicts of Interest*, Bloomberg (Feb. 5, 2025) (online at www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-02-05/white-house-says-musk-will-police-his-own-conflicts-of-interest).

[2] *See* e.g.: 5 U.S.C. §§ 101, 107 and 5 C.F.R. § 2634.104(a).

[3] 5 C.F.R. § 2634.104(a).

> (a) Except as permitted by subsection (b) hereof, whoever, being an officer or employee of the executive branch of the United States Government…including a special Government employee, participates personally and substantially as a Government officer or employee, through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation, or otherwise, in a judicial or other proceeding, application, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, charge, accusation, arrest, or other particular matter in which, to his knowledge, he, his spouse, minor child, general partner, organization in which he is serving as officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee, or any person or organization with whom he is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment, has a financial interest— Shall be subject to the penalties set forth in section 216 of this title. [5]

The law allows for a waiver of this provision if the employee has made a full disclosure of the financial interest and received—in advance—a determination that the interest is either remote or insubstantial enough that it would be unlikely to affect the integrity of the employee's work.[6]

To ensure that Mr. Musk has complied with all relevant financial disclosure and conflict of interest mitigation requirements, please provide the following documents and information by May 15, 2025:

1. The legally required financial disclosure Mr. Musk submitted upon his appointment as a special government employee describing—among other items—investment and non-investment income, the source and value of gifts of more than minimal value from non-relatives, and the identity and category of assets and liabilities;[7] and

2. The legally required written determination by the official who determined Mr. Musk's various conflicts of interest were considered and deemed to be too remote or inconsequential to affect the integrity of Mr. Musk's service.[8]

Further, in recognition of Mr. Musk's elevated role in your Administration, we request that he immediately complete a public financial disclosure, as is generally required for employees occupying positions equivalent to those of a member of the Senior Executive Service.[9] This disclosure will provide important transparency to the American people about the interests of a government employee with enormous influence over the use of their tax dollars.

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[4] 18 U.S.C. § 208 (a).

[5] *Id.*

[6] 18 U.S.C. § 208 (b).

[7] As required under 5 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102.

[8] As required under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b).

[9] 5 U.S.C. § 101(f).

The Committee on Oversight and 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. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of "the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President." 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 request.

Sincerely,

Gerald E. Connolly
Ranking Member

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress

Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress

Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress

Robert Garcia
Member of Congress

Maxwell A. Frost
Member of Congress

Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress

Greg Casar
Member of Congress

Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress

Emily Randall
Member of Congress

Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress

Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress

Wesley Bell
Member of Congress

Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress

Dave Min
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

From: Grant Anderson
To: Agency Wide
Subject: Legislative Update for Thursday, May 15, 2025
Date: Thursday, May 15, 2025 10:51:48 AM

The Senate reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

According to *CQ*, the Senate reconvened at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Sean Donahue to be assistant EPA administrator, post-cloture. At 11:30 a.m., the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Donahue nomination. Sen. Kaine is then expected to make a motion to discharge S Res 195, related to El Salvador's human rights practices, from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. At 1:45 p.m., the Senate is expected to vote on agreeing to the motion to discharge S Res 195.

The House reconvenes at 12:00 p.m.

According to *CQ*, the House reconvenes at noon for legislative business to consider HR 2255 to permit federal law enforcement officers to purchase retired or surplus firearms; and HR 2240 to require the AG to report to Congress details of attacks on officers and available mental health resources. First and last votes are expected at 4 p.m.

Legislative and Related News

Punchbowl reports on President Trump's active role in Senate consideration of nominees. Foreign Relations Chair Risch said: "he's totally immersed in it… I get calls morning, noon and night from him." Inside Trump's fixation on diplomatic nominees

Multiple outlets report on a letter from Senators to OGE, DOJ, the WH DAEO, and State IG related to whether Elon Musk or other employees violated ethics law for the benefit of Starlink. Senate Democrats want investigation into whether Trump administration helping Musk make Starlink deals (ABC); Democratic senators call for probe into whether Trump is 'intervening' to aid Musk's Starlink (The Hill); The Trump Administration Leaned on African Countries. The Goal: Get Business for Elon Musk. (ProPublica)

Multiple outlets report on congressional concerns related to President Trump accepting a plane from Qatar. GOP heavyweights join bipartisan bashing of Trump Qatar jet deal (Politico); Schumer places hold on DOJ political nominees over Qatari jet gift to Trump (The Hill); As Trump Courts Gifts and Dangles Access, Congress Sits on the Sidelines (NYT); Durbin presses Bondi over greenlighting Qatari jet gift (The Hill)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Politico reports on financial disclosures filed by Treasury DOGE team members, including Tom Krause, the top official overseeing Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service, who "reported hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of shares in a wide range of financial companies, including those that provide services to the unit Krause oversees." 'Glaring red flag': Treasury DOGE team discloses bank stock holdings

Bloomberg and *ProPublica* report on the AG's financial disclosure reporting her sale of Trump Media Shares. Attorney General Pam Bondi Discloses Sale of Trump Media Shares (Bloomberg); U.S. AG Pam Bondi Sold More than $1 Million in Trump Media Stock the Day Trump Announced Sweeping Tariffs (ProPublica)

ProPublica reports on OPM SGE Young's financial disclosure report. Musk Adviser May Make as Much as $1 Million a Year While Helping to Dismantle Agency that Regulates Tesla and X

Federal Agency and Related News

FNN reports on OSC's amicus brief related to probationary employees. In reversal, OSC now says agencies can fire probationary feds for almost any reason

Next Scheduled Recess:

Senate: May 26-30
House: May 23 - June 2

Attachment released below

From: Contact OGE
To: Director of OGE
Cc: Elizabeth D. Horton; Nicole Stein
Subject: FW: Letter to OGE Regarding DOGE Employees" Financial Disclosures
Date: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 2:30:58 PM
Attachments: CLC Letter to OGE - DOGE FDs__final.pdf

Hello all,
Just received during our PCD meeting.

Thank you,
Courtney

From: Delaney Marsco <(b)(6) >
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 2:05 PM
To: Contact OGE <contactoge@oge.gov>
Subject: Letter to OGE Regarding DOGE Employees' Financial Disclosures

CAUTION: This email originated from outside OGE. Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding. If you believe this email is suspicious, please forward it to spam@oge.gov for additional analysis.

To Whom It May Concern:

Please see the attached letter regarding the financial disclosure reports for DOGE employees. CLC asks for a review of financial disclosure compliance and a public report detailing your findings.

Thank you,

Delaney Marsco
Director, Ethics

Campaign Legal Center
1101 14th St. NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
campaignlegalcenter.org

Facebook | X/Twitter | Instagram | LinkedIn

Check out CLC's podcast: Democracy Decoded

Support our work to advance democracy through law.

June 4, 2025

Jamieson Greer
Acting Director, U.S. Office of Government Ethics
250 E Street SW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20024

submitted via ContactOGE@oge.gov

Dear Acting Director Greer:

Campaign Legal Center (CLC) writes to request that the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) conduct a review of whether current and former employees of the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) have violated the financial disclosure reporting requirements of the Ethics in Government Act (EIGA).[1] The lack of transparency surrounding DOGE and the widespread reporting of possible conflicts of interest by DOGE employees assigned to agencies across federal government warrants this review. Only 6 of the approximately 82 publicly identified DOGE employees are known to have filed financial disclosure statements required by EIGA.[2]

The review is urgently needed because many individuals affiliated with DOGE, including Elon Musk, have served as special government employees (SGEs) since January and may soon reach the 130-day legal limit on their temporary public service.[3] The SGEs have outside employment interests that may raise criminal

[1] *See* 5 U.S.C. Ch. 131.
[2] These numbers represent what is publicly available as of June 3, 2025. *See* New York Times, *The People Carrying Out Musk's Plans at DOGE* (May 28, 2025), https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/02/27/us/politics/doge-staff-list.html; Avi Asher-Schapiro et. al., *Elon Musk's Demolition Crew*, ProPublica (May 7, 2025), https://projects.propublica.org/elon-musk-doge-tracker/; Chart, "Status of DOGE Employee Required Financial Disclosure Filings," *infra.*
[3] An SGE is defined as "an officer or employee of the executive or legislative branch of the United States Government . . . who is retained, designated, appointed, or employed to perform, with or

conflict of interest concerns, but their financial disclosures are not available for public inspection.[4] As the SGEs and other DOGE employees leave public service, they are subject to additional criminal conflict of interest laws under 18 U.S.C. § 207, and the financial disclosures are needed to effectively enforce these laws.

Information on financial disclosure compliance is critical for the preservation of the public's trust in the federal government and should be provided promptly. Reporting shows that DOGE employees are working to reshape the federal workforce despite massive unresolved conflicts of interest[5]—and that is just for employees whose financial interests are public knowledge. OGE should provide assurance to the public that DOGE employees doing consequential work across the government are complying with all ethics laws and rules applicable to them.

Unknown Status of DOGE Employees' Financial Interests Disclosures

DOGE is reportedly currently comprised of more than 70 employees, who may be temporary SGEs or permanent government employees.[6] However, there is only limited information on the identities of those employees. Approximately 82 current or former DOGE employees have been identified in recent reporting, but many reportedly have retained outside employment and only 6 are known to have filed financial disclosures. More importantly, the vast majority of DOGE employees have potential conflicts of interest with their current or former employers, which include government contractors[7] and companies regulated by agencies with embedded DOGE employees.[8]

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without compensation, *for not to exceed one hundred and thirty days* during any period of three hundred and sixty-five consecutive days" 18 U.S.C. § 202(a) (emphasis added).

[4] *See* Chart, "Status of DOGE Employee Required Financial Disclosure Filings," *infra.*

[5] Nick Robins-Early, *Elon Musk's DOGE Conflicts of Interest Worth $2.37bn, Senate Report Says*, The Guardian (Apr. 28, 2025), https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/apr/28/elon-musk-doge-conflict-of-interest; Campaign Legal Center, *CLC Complaint to Inspector General Regarding Musk Conflicts of Interest at FAA*, (Mar. 13, 2025), https://campaignlegal.org/document/clc-complaint-inspector-general-regarding-musk-conflicts-interest-faa; Campaign Legal Center, *CLC Complaint to CFPB Inspector General Regarding Gavin Kliger*, (May 20, 2025), https://campaignlegal.org/document/clc-complaint-cfpb-inspector-general-regarding-gavin-kliger.

[6] New York Times, *The People Carrying Out Musk's Plans at DOGE* (May 28, 2025), https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/02/27/us/politics/doge-staff-list.html.

[7] DOGE employees have potential conflicts with government contractors like SpaceX, Boring Company, and Palantir.

[8] DOGE employees have potential conflicts with companies like Tesla, Meta, and Neuralink, among others, that are heavily regulated by government agencies.

Status of Required Financial Disclosure Filings for DOGE Employees[9]

Name	Prior or Current Outside Positions Requiring Review for Potential Conflicts of Interest	FD Status
Daniel Abrahamson	Tesla	unknown
Justin Aimonetti	Dechert LLP	unknown
Jacob Altik	Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, New Civil Liberties Alliance	unknown
Anthony Armstrong	Credit Suisse, Morgan Stanley	unknown
Kathryn Armstrong Loving	unknown	unknown
Jennifer Balajadia	Boring Company	unknown
Alexandra T. Beynon	Mindbloom, Symphony.com, Goldman Sachs	unknown
Riccardo Biasini	Tesla, Boring Company	filed
Brian Bjelde	SpaceX	unknown
Akash Bobba	Bridgewater Associates, Meta, and Palantir	unknown
Ashley Boizelle	Amazon, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP	unknown
James Burnham	Vallecito Capital, King Street Legal, Jones Day	unknown
Nate Cavanaugh	Brainbase, FlowFi	unknown
Michael P. Cole	Shareholder Capital, LLC	unknown
Sam Corcos	Levels Health	unknown
Edward Coristine	Neuralink	unknown
Scott Coulter	Cowbird Capital	unknown
Clayton Cromer	unknown	unknown
Steve Davis	Boring Company, SpaceX	unknown
Stephen Duarte	SpaceX	unknown
Stephen Ehikian	Salesforce, Airkit.ai	unknown
Marko Elez	SpaceX	unknown
Luke Farritor	SpaceX	unknown
Conor Fennessy	unknown	unknown
Justin Fulcher	RingMD	unknown
Mattieu Gamache-Asselin	Alto Pharmacy, Facebook	unknown
Joe Gebbia	AirBnB, Tesla	unknown
Brady Glantz	SpaceX	unknown
Amy Gleason	unknown	unknown
Antonio Gracias	SpaceX, Tesla	unknown
Joshua A. Hanley	Williams & Connolly LLP	unknown
Christina Hanna	SpaceX	unknown

[9] This list has been derived from various news outlets covering DOGE's work, including New York Times, *The People Carrying Out Musk's Plans at DOGE* and Asher-Schapiro et. al., *supra* note 1. It may be incomplete and may reflect DOGE employees who have already left DOGE.

Name	Prior or Current Outside Positions Requiring Review for Potential Conflicts of Interest	FD Status
Tyler Hassen	Basin Energy, Basin Industries, Basin Power, Wenzel Downhole Tool	unknown
Greg Hogan	Comma.ai	unknown
Nicole Hollander	X	unknown
Stephanie Holmes	BrighterSide HR	unknown
Erica Jehling	SpaceX	unknown
Thomas Kiernan	SpaceX	unknown
Gautier Cole Killian	Jump Trading	unknown
Gavin Kliger	Twitter, Databricks	filed
Keenan Kmiec	unknown	unknown
Tom Krause	Cloud Software Group	unknown
Jon Koval	Valor Equity Partners	unknown
Scott Langmack	unknown	filed
Sahil Lavingia	Gumroad, Pinterest	unknown
Jeremy Lewin	Munger Tolles & Olson LLP	unknown
Kendall M. Lindemann	McKinsey & Company, Russell Street Ventures	unknown
Tarak Makecha	Tesla	unknown
Ted Malaska	SpaceX	unknown
Katie Miller	Office of the Vice President, Department of Homeland Security	unknown
Clark Minor	Palantir	filed
Michael Alexander Mirski	TCC Management	unknown
Bryanne-Michelle Mlodzianowski	SpaceX	unknown
Aram Moghadassi	Neuralink	unknown
Justin Monroe	SpaceX	unknown
Brooks Morgan	Podium Education	unknown
Todd Newnam	Encore Technology Group	unknown
Donald Park	Ionic Partners	unknown
Noah Peters	Brewer, Attorneys & Counselors	unknown
Nikhil Rajpal	Tesla	unknown
Adam Ramada	Spring Tide Capital	unknown
Austin Raynor	Sullivan & Cromwell LLP	unknown
Payton Rehling	Valor Equity Partners	unknown
Ryan Riedel	SpaceX	unknown
Rachel Riley	McKinsey & Company	filed
Christopher Roussos	AllerVie Health, 24 Hour Fitness	unknown

Name	Prior or Current Outside Positions Requiring Review for Potential Conflicts of Interest	FD Status
Michael Russo	Artromick International, Prematics, Inc., MICROS Systems Inc., Shift4 Payments	unknown
Kyle Schutt	WinRed	unknown
Alexander Simonpour	SpaceX	unknown
Christopher Stanley	SpaceX	unknown
Amanda Scales	Uber	filed
Frank Schuler	Ornstein-Schuler	unknown
Ethan Shaotran	unknown	unknown
Thomas Shedd	Tesla	unknown
Sam Smeal	SpaceX	unknown
Brad Smith	Russell Street Ventures, Aspire Health, CareBridge, Main Street Health	unknown
Katrine Trampe	unknown	unknown
Cary P. Volpert	Lindy Live	unknown
Jordan M. Wick	Waymo	unknown
Joanna Wischer	General Dynamics	unknown
Ryan Wunderly	Anduril Industries	unknown
Chris Young	Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America	unknown

OGE's Authority to Publicly Release Status of DOGE Employees' Financial Disclosures

OGE has the authority to conduct a compliance review for DOGE and release the findings. The OGE Director's responsibilities include:

- "monitoring and investigating compliance with the public financial disclosure requirements of [the Ethics in Government Act] by officers and employees of the executive branch";[10]
- "monitoring and investigating individual and agency compliance with any additional financial reporting and internal review requirements established by law for the executive branch";[11]
- "requiring such reports from executive agencies as the Director deems necessary;"[12] and

[10] 5 U.S.C. § 13122(b)(3).
[11] *Id.* (b)(5).
[12] *Id.* (b)(10).

- "providing information on and promoting understanding of ethical standards in executive agencies."[13]

To fulfill its responsibilities under EIGA, OGE is required to collect information from federal agencies detailing compliance with federal ethics laws, including financial disclosure requirements.[14] For example, OGE annually collects data from agencies "to carry out its oversight role, to gain knowledge about individual agency ethics programs and the executive branch program, as a whole, and to make informed decisions about priorities and resource allocation."[15] This data is publicly released in Program Review Reports.

The creation of DOGE and the restructuring of the Office of Management and Budget/U.S. Digital Service to accommodate DOGE employees[16] makes this data collection urgent. Specifically, OGE should conduct an extensive review and provide the public with a:

- Full accounting of employees onboarded as part of DOGE
- Determination of whether those employees complied with the appropriate financial disclosure requirements, whether public or confidential
- Determination of whether any DOGE employees were excluded from all or a portion of the confidential filing requirements
- Determination of whether the SGEs are complying with financial disclosure laws applicable to them, and those who are working or plan to work more than the 130-day limit are complying with financial disclosure laws applicable to their status

CLC is aware that OGE conducts reviews of cabinet-level agencies' ethics programs every four years and requires agencies to provide answers about their ethics programs in the annual questionnaires, but we believe this additional review, in light of the circumstances surrounding DOGE's role in the federal government, demands OGE's immediate attention.

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[13] *Id.* (b)(14).
[14] *Id.*(e)(1); 5 C.F.R. § 2638.207(a).
[15] U.S. Off. of Gov't Ethics, Program Advisory on 2024 Annual Agency Ethics Program Questionnaire, PA-24-04, https://www.oge.gov/Web/OGE.nsf/0/68F2F893195E4ACE85258B620050CFC4/$FILE/PA-24-04_2024%20Annual%20Agency%20Ethics%20Program%20Questionnaire.pdf.
[16] *Id.*

Respectfully submitted,

_____/s/_____
Kedric L. Payne
General Counsel, Vice President, and Sr. Director, Ethics

_____/s/_____
Delaney Marsco
Director, Ethics

_____/s/_____
Sophia Gonsalves-Brown
Senior Researcher, Campaign Finance and Ethics

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS
Preventing Conflicts of Interest in the Executive Branch

AIMS Agency Information Management System

Resolved Interaction

Interaction Number: 28624	
Initiation Date*:	2025-08-06
Title*:	(b) (5)
Question*:	Hi Maura, (b)(5) deliberative and predecisional Thanks, (b)(6)
Update:	
Categories*:	(b) (5)
Origin Of Interaction*:	Email
Source*:	Agency (b) (5)
First Name:	(b)(6)
Last Name:	(b)(6)
Title:	(b)(6)
Position:	(b)(6)
Email:	(b)(6)
Phone:	
Other Contact Notes:	
Assignment:	Maura Leary
Watching:	
Temporary Notes:	
created by:	*Maura Leary*

Resolution Information	
Resolution Date*:	2025-08-08
Resolution Category*:	Resolved
Response*:	(b)(5) deliberative and predecisional

	(b)(5) deliberative and predecisional *(Assigned to: Maura Leary)*
Complexity (level):	4 [Click to view/hide complexity guidelines]
Time Spent (hours):	1-4 hours
Contributor:	Nicole Stein
reopen	

Reopen Information	
Date:	2025-08-08
Reason:	typo

Interaction History Log

Closed	08/08/2025 02:46:58 PM by Maura Leary
Reopen	08/08/2025 02:46:50 PM by Maura Leary
Closed	08/08/2025 02:44:41 PM by Maura Leary
Now Assigned: Maura Leary	08/08/2025 02:44:41 PM by Maura Leary

Division(s) assigned: GCLPD

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS
Preventing Conflicts of Interest in the Executive Branch

AIMS Agency Information Management System

Resolved Interaction

Interaction Number: 27809

copy press contact to new

Initiation Date*:	2025-02-24
Title*:	Question about financial disclosure reports (Reuters)
Question*:	Hi there . This is Aram Roston of Reuters. Can you steer me on how to obtain two personal financial disclosures? 1) Stephen Miller, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy at the White House 2) Katie Miller, DOGE spokesperson Thank you! Aram
Update:	
Categories*:	278s
Origin Of Interaction*:	Phone
Source*:	Non-Agency Press
First Name:	Aram
Last Name:	Roston
Title:	Reporter, Reuters
Position:	
Email:	(b) (6) [redacted]
Phone:	(b)(6) [redacted]
Other Contact Notes:	
Assignment:	Elizabeth D. Horton
Watching:	
Temporary Notes:	
created by:	*Elizabeth D. Horton*

Resolution Information	
Resolution Date*:	2025-02-24
Resolution Category*:	Resolved
Response*:	I told the reporter I don't discuss specific individuals and referred him to the White House. *(Assigned to: Elizabeth D. Horton)*
Complexity (level):	2 [Click to view/hide complexity guidelines]
Time Spent (hours):	0-1 hour
Contributor:	
reopen	

Interaction History Log

Closed	02/24/2025 01:14:41 PM by Elizabeth D. Horton
Now Assigned: Elizabeth D. Horton	02/24/2025 01:14:41 PM by Elizabeth D. Horton

Division(s) assigned: PCD

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS
Preventing Conflicts of Interest in the Executive Branch

AIMS Agency Information Management System

Resolved Interaction

Interaction Number: 27657

copy press contact to new

Initiation Date*:	2025-02-05
Title*:	Question about individual's public financial disclosure report (Business Insider)
Question*:	Dear Elizabeth and Patrick, I'm a reporter for Business Insider. I would like to get Elon Musk's OGE 278e. He is widely talked about as though he is the Administrator of the US DOGE Service, formerly the US Digital Service, and the last person to hold that position, Mina Hsiang, completed the form. Can you confirm whether Elon Musk is required to fill out an OGE 278e? Can you supply it, if it was filed? Best, Jack Newsham
Update:	
Categories*:	278s
Origin Of Interaction*:	Email
Source*:	Non-Agency Press
First Name:	Jack
Last Name:	Newsham
Title:	Reporter, Business Insider
Position:	
Email:	(b) (6) [redacted]
Phone:	(b)(6) [redacted]
Other Contact Notes:	
Assignment:	Elizabeth D. Horton
Watching:	
Temporary Notes:	
created by:	*Elizabeth D. Horton*

Resolution Information	
Resolution Date*:	2025-02-05
Resolution Category*:	Resolved
Response*:	I told the reporter that I do not discuss specific individuals and told him on background that there are about 27,000 public filers in the executive branch but only about 1100 of those public reports come to OGE for second-level review and are available from OGE. I helped him navigate to the Agency Ethics Program Contact Information page and referred him to the White House since their entry on our contact list is vacant. *(Assigned to: Elizabeth D. Horton)*
Complexity (level):	2 [Click to view/hide complexity guidelines]
Time Spent (hours):	0-1 hour
Contributor:	

reopen	

Interaction History Log	
Closed	02/05/2025 04:47:37 PM by Elizabeth D. Horton
Create	02/05/2025 04:26:06 PM by Elizabeth D. Horton
Now Assigned: Elizabeth D. Horton	02/05/2025 04:26:06 PM by Elizabeth D. Horton

Division(s) assigned: PCD

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS
Preventing Conflicts of Interest in the Executive Branch

AIMS Agency Information Management System

Resolved Interaction

Interaction Number: 27623

copy press contact to new

Initiation Date*:	2025-02-04
Title*:	Question about individual's financial disclosure requirements (Forbes)
Question*:	Hello, I am reporting a story on the head of DOGE's appointment as a Special Government Employee and seeking comment on whether he has filed a confidential financial disclosure, OGE 450, as is legally required for SGEs according to government lawyers and ethics experts I've spoken with. Please let me know if the OGE can confirm or has any comment for my story. I am publishing later today, so my deadline is as soon as possible. best, John
Update:	
Categories*:	450s, SGE
Origin Of Interaction*:	Email
Source*:	Non-Agency Press
First Name:	John
Last Name:	Hyatt
Title:	Staff Writer, Forbes
Position:	
Email:	(b)(6)
Phone:	(b)(6)
Other Contact Notes:	
Assignment:	Elizabeth D. Horton
Watching:	
Temporary Notes:	
created by:	*Elizabeth D. Horton*

Resolution Information

Resolution Date*:	2025-02-04
Resolution Category*:	Resolved
Response*:	I told the reporter that I do not discuss specific individuals and sent him the following resources: Summary of the ethics provisions that apply to Special Government Employees (SGEs): https://extapps2.oge.gov/Training/OGETraining.nsf/xsp/.ibmmodres/domino/OpenAttachment/training/ogetraining.nsf/D006291C1FEC02448525869C005BD4B8/Body/EthicsL DO-03-021: Financial Disclosure Reporting Requirements for Special Government Employees (SGEs): https://www.oge.gov/Web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Docs/24CF456A5E50E19B852585BA005BED4A/$FILE/0b19d04f4e0d4b7fa130bbcd99f758581.pdf?open *(Assigned to: Elizabeth D. Horton)*
Complexity (level):	3 [Click to view/hide complexity guidelines]
Time Spent (hours):	0-1 hour
Contributor:	
reopen	

Interaction History Log

Closed	02/04/2025 11:36:04 AM by Elizabeth D. Horton

Now Assigned: Elizabeth D. Horton	02/04/2025 11:36:04 AM by Elizabeth D. Horton

Division(s) assigned: PCD

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS
Preventing Conflicts of Interest in the Executive Branch

AIMS Agency Information Management System

Resolved Interaction

Interaction Number: 27608

copy press contact to new

Initiation Date*:	2025-02-03
Title*:	Questions about confidential financial disclosures (FedScoop)
Question*:	Hi, I hope you're well. My name is Rebecca and I'm a reporter with FedScoop. I want to ask: if employees or volunteers with the DOGE must submit OGE Form 450. If not, why not? If yes, have DOGE employees started submitting this paperwork? Hoping to clarify this by EOD today! Best, Rebecca
Update:	
Categories*:	450s
Origin Of Interaction*:	Email
Source*:	Non-Agency Press
First Name:	Rebecca
Last Name:	Heilweil
Title:	Reporter, FedScoop
Position:	
Email:	(b) (6)
Phone:	(b)(6)
Other Contact Notes:	
Assignment:	Elizabeth D. Horton
Watching:	
Temporary Notes:	
created by:	*Elizabeth D. Horton*

Resolution Information

Resolution Date*:	2025-02-03
Resolution Category*:	Resolved
Response*:	I told the reporter that I do not discuss specific situations and explained briefly on background that unlike the public financial disclosure filers which are defined by the EIGA, cc determined by the employing agencies. I also sent her the following resources: 5 U.S.C. Sec. 13109 Confidential reports and other additional requirements: https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title5-section13109&num=0&editi Determining Which Positions Should File a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report: A Worksheet: https://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/3A3A75454693D79C852585B6005A17B8/$FILE/New%20Form%20450%20Job%20Aid.pdf Confidential Financial Disclosure Guide (discussion of confidential financial disclosure system starts on page 6): https://www.oge.gov/web/OGE.nsf/0/11AF3BE8C3A7F42A85258A6200572AC9/$FILE/Confidential%20Fin%20Disc%20Guide%202023%20Accessible.pdf Summary of the ethics provisions that apply to Special Government Employees (SGEs): https://extapps2.oge.gov/Training/OGETraining.nsf/xsp/.ibmmodres/domino/OpenAttachment/training/ogetraining.nsf/D006291C1FEC02448525869C005BD4B8/Body/EthicsL DO-03-021: Financial Disclosure Reporting Requirements for Special Government Employees (SGEs): https://www.oge.gov/Web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Docs/24CF456A5E50E19B852585BA005BED4A/$FILE/0b19d04f4e0d4b7fa130bbcd99f758581.pdf?open *(Assigned to: Elizabeth D. Horton)*
Complexity (level):	3 [Click to view/hide complexity guidelines]
Time Spent (hours):	0-1 hour
Contributor:	

reopen

Interaction History Log	
Closed	02/03/2025 02:57:20 PM by Elizabeth D. Horton
Create	02/03/2025 01:44:17 PM by Elizabeth D. Horton
Now Assigned: Elizabeth D. Horton	02/03/2025 01:44:17 PM by Elizabeth D. Horton

Division(s) assigned: PCD