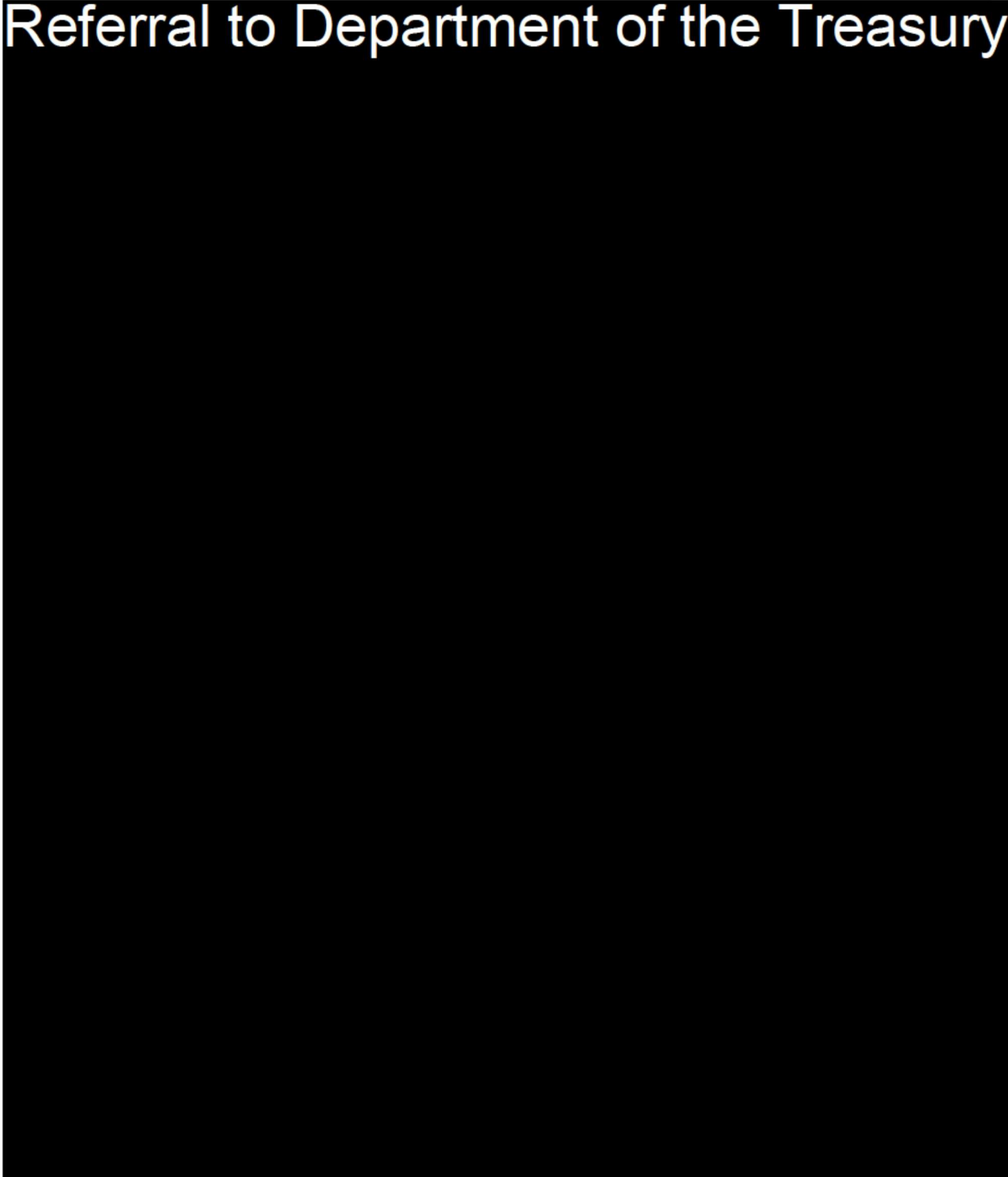
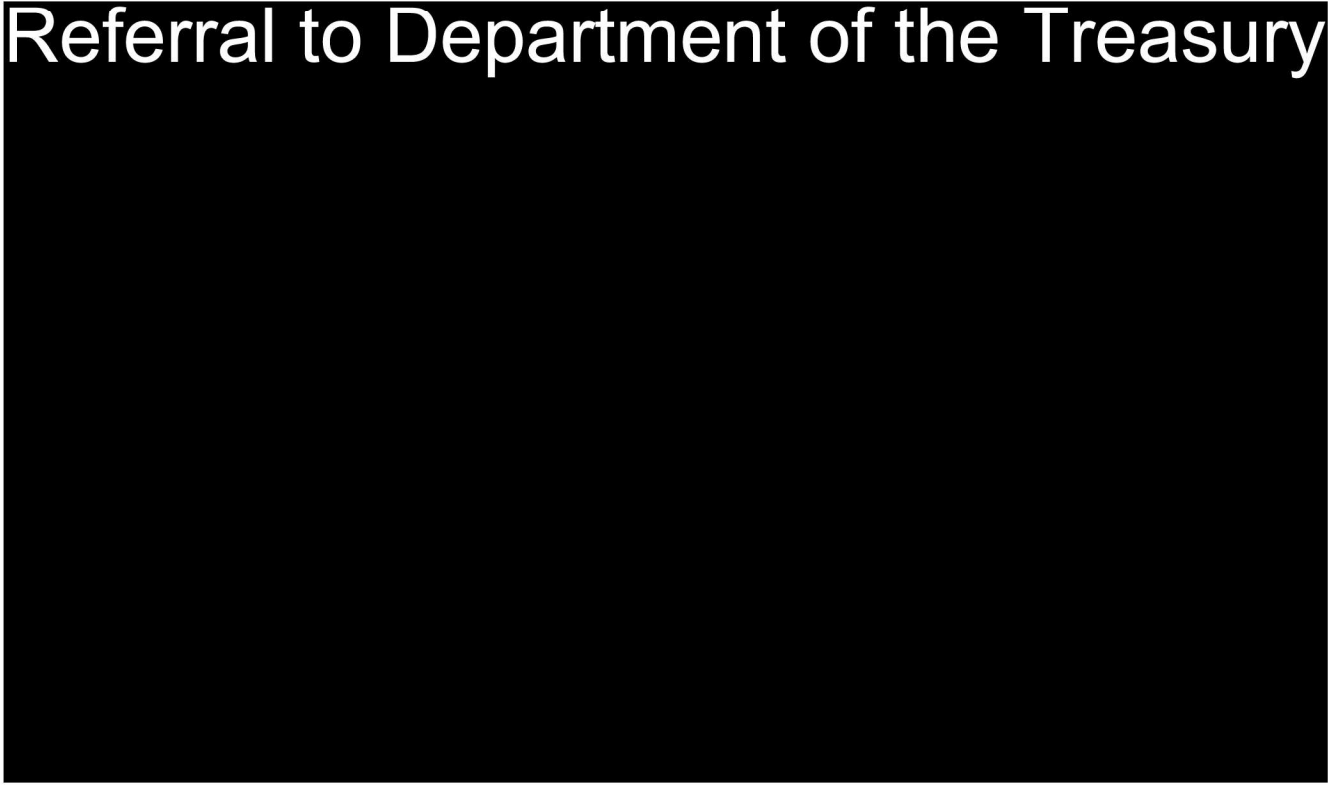


From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Gilbert Carlson](#); [Dale A. Christopher](#); [Elizabeth D. Horton](#); [Kaneisha T. Cunningham](#)
Cc: [Diana Veilleux](#)
Subject: FW: (b)(5)
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025 4:46:57 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Referral to Department of the Treasury



Referral to Department of the Treasury



From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Gilbert Carlson](#); [Dale A. Christopher](#)
Subject: RE: (b)(5)
Date: Monday, March 31, 2025 7:16:49 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

(b)(5)

From: Gilbert Carlson <gcarlson@oge.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 6:07 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov>; Dale A. Christopher <dachrist@oge.gov>
Subject: FW: (b)(5)

Good morning,

(b)(5)

Thank you.

Gil Carlson
Budget Officer

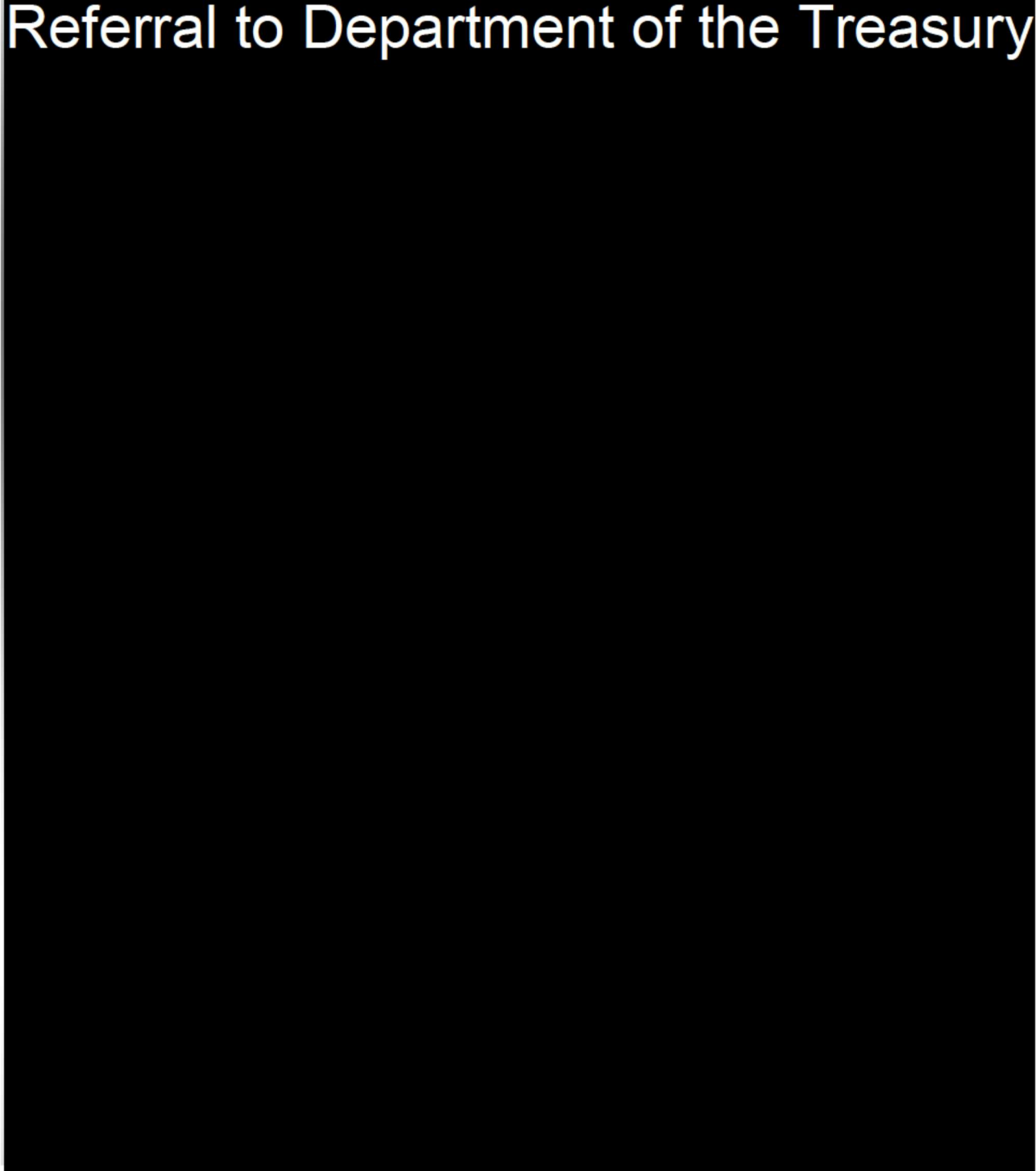
Duplicate - remainder of thread already released or referred as indicated above

Duplicate - remainder of thread already released or referred as indicated above



From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Ty Cooper](#); [Gilbert Carlson](#); [Dale A. Christopher](#)
Cc: [Jennifer Matis](#); [Grant Anderson](#); [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
Subject: FW: (b)(5)
Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 2:59:20 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Referral to Department of the Treasury



Referral to Department of the Treasury

From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Dale A. Christopher](#)
Subject: FW: (b)(5)
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2025 10:49:44 AM

From: Elizabeth D. Horton <edhorton@oge.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 10:11 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov>
Cc: Diana Veilleux <djveille@oge.gov>
Subject: RE: (b)(5)

Good morning, Shelley.

Please see the following (b)(5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b)(5) [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

(b)(5) [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

From: Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 9:13 AM
To: Elizabeth D. Horton <edhorton@oge.gov>
Cc: Diana Veilleux <djveille@oge.gov>
Subject: (b)(5) [Redacted]

Hi Liz –
Will you please (b)(5) [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Thank you,
Shelley

From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Kaneisha T. Cunningham](#); [Sidney Williams](#)
Cc: [Dale A. Christopher](#)
Subject: (b)(5)
Date: Monday, May 5, 2025 8:53:10 AM

Good morning –

Happy public service recognition week! I hope you're well.

I am reaching out to (b)(5)

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Thanks,
Shelley

From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Dale A. Christopher](#)
Subject: Congressional Letter to USTR Greer.pdf
Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 5:53:17 PM
Attachments: [Congressional Letter to USTR Greer.pdf](#)

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2025

Ambassador Jamieson Greer
United States Trade Representative
Executive Office of the President
600 17th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Mr. Jamieson Greer
Acting Special Counsel
U.S. Office of Special Counsel
1730 M St. NW
Washington, D.C. 200036

Mr. Jamieson Greer
Acting Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
250 E St. SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Ambassador, Acting Special Counsel, and Acting Director Greer:

We write to express our deep concern over your surreptitious appointments as Acting Special Counsel of the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) and Acting Director of the Office of Government Ethics while also serving as the United States Trade Representative (USTR) —a position that, by law, is “the principal advisor to the President on international trade policy”.¹ Since President Trump has launched a global trade war, it is critical that you remain focused on fulfilling the duties for which you were confirmed by the United States Senate, such as serving as “the chief representative for the United States” for trade negotiations.² Taking on at least two other jobs is misguided and a disservice to the public who expect a competent and effective USTR, OSC, and OGE. We urge you to immediately relinquish your roles as Acting Special Counsel, Acting Director, and any other positions.

The Senate confirmed you to the singular position of United States Trade Representative, and, in this moment, the stakes could not be higher. The ongoing reckless trade war has disrupted global supply chains, driven up costs for families, and jeopardized more than \$2.2 trillion in annual trade.³ Millions of Americans have witnessed their 401(k)s shrink as a result of these tariffs. Moreover, economists are predicting a recession that will impact every person who calls this country home. These actions disproportionately hurt workers, farmers, and small businesses while delivering nothing in terms of strategic gain. As USTR, you should be singularly focused on international trade policy, including ending the escalating economic conflict.

Instead, you have taken on multiple additional jobs overseeing the Office of Special Counsel and the Office of Government Ethics. The Office of Special Counsel is an independent agency responsible for protecting more than 2.2 million federal workers in the civil service from discrimination, political coercion, and retaliation for exposing wrongdoing. With the current onslaught of attacks, layoffs, and firings of government employees, OSC’s work has greatly

¹ 19 USC 2171(c)(1)(B)

² 19 USC 2171(c)(1)(C)

³ *Trump triggers trade war; price hikes with tariffs on Canada, China, and Mexico*, Reuters (March 5, 2025) (www.reuters.com/world/trade-wars-erupt-trump-hits-canada-mexico-china-with-steep-tariffs-2025-03-04/).

increased in significance and quantity. The Office of Government Ethics is responsible for leading ethics programs in more than 140 agencies in the Executive Branch and ensuring compliance by senior leaders. Since coming into the presidency, the Trump Administration has been the subject of dozens of ethics complaints that require serious attention. The millions of people who rely on these agencies deserve leaders that are committed and focused on their respective missions, not a figurehead who is juggling multiple positions in the Administration.

Further, there is a conflict of interest of your multiple roles since OSC's and OGE's jurisdictions include oversight of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, where cases of ethics disclosures, whistleblower reprisals, and mishandling of sensitive information may arise. These issues demand impartial investigation, something that is impossible to guarantee under your current triple appointment.

In fact, during the first Trump administration, reports revealed that senior political aides illegally sought the identities of whistleblowers to retaliate against them.⁴ Your concurrent leadership invites similar abuses of power, especially amid growing reports that the OSC may now be used to carry out political initiatives from the so-called "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE) – initiatives that intimidate federal employees, abuse private data, and dismantle essential services.

Given these concerns, we do not have confidence in your ability to impartially or effectively fulfill the demanding responsibilities of each office. We urge you to immediately resign as Acting Special Counsel and Acting Director. Anything less fails to meet the ethical and professional standards required to preserve the independence and effectiveness of both offices.

To better understand how you are managing three full-time roles, we request that you provide the following information by April 16, 2025:

1. In addition to your positions as USTR, Acting Special Counsel, and Acting Director, what other roles do you hold in the Trump Administration?
2. In the course of a normal day, how many hours are you spending working on USTR matters compared to OSC matters and OGE matters?
3. Have you recused yourself from any OSC or OGE investigations involving the Office of the United States Trade Representative? If not, why not? If so, who is responsible for handling those complaints?
4. Were ethics officials at any of the agencies consulted before you assumed multiple roles? If so, please provide a copy of any guidance or recommendations you received.
5. Has any information regarding OSC or OGE complaints related to DOGE been shared with DOGE staff?

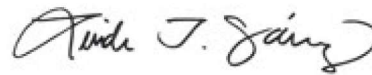
Thank you for your prompt response to this matter.

Sincerely,

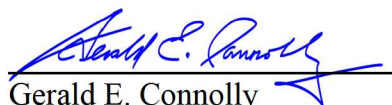
⁴ "Protect the Secretary": VA Chief Robert Wilkie Installs Political Aide at Watchdog Investigating His Inner Circle, Project on Government Oversight (Dec. 16, 2020) (www.pogo.org/investigations/protect-the-secretary-va-chief-robert-wilkie-installs-political-aide-at-watchdog-investigating-his-inner-circle).



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Cc: [Nicole Stein](#)
Subject: Contact from the public
Date: Monday, February 3, 2025 12:28:44 PM

Hi Elise/Courtney –

I hope you're well. I received a voicemail from a member of the public concerned about the status and activities of individuals who may not be federal employees (DOGE). He requested a return call. His contact information is (b)(6) and (b)(6) (although I am not sure about the punctuation/accuracy of the email).

Please record the contact/respond as appropriate.

Thanks,

Shelley

From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
Cc: [Diana Veilleux](#)
Subject: RE: (b)(5)
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 5:52:23 PM

Hi, Liz –

Will you please send this out to everyone (b)(5)

Thanks,
Shelley

From: Elizabeth D. Horton <edhorton@oge.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 5:22 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov>
Cc: Diana Veilleux <djveille@oge.gov>
Subject: RE: (b)(5)

Hi Shelley.

Here are the (b)(5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b)(5)
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 9:08 AM
To: Elizabeth D. Horton <edhorton@oge.gov>
Cc: Diana Veilleux <djveille@oge.gov>
Subject: (b)(5)

GM, Liz –
(b)(5)
[Redacted]

Thanks,
Shelley

(b)(5) [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Dale A. Christopher](#); [Diana Veilleux](#); [Nicole Stein](#)
Subject: DOGE
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2025 6:58:31 PM

This is our DOGE page: <https://doge.gov/workforce?orgId=368745b8-a8b1-4a5f-94de-b9cdf9c0d2c1>

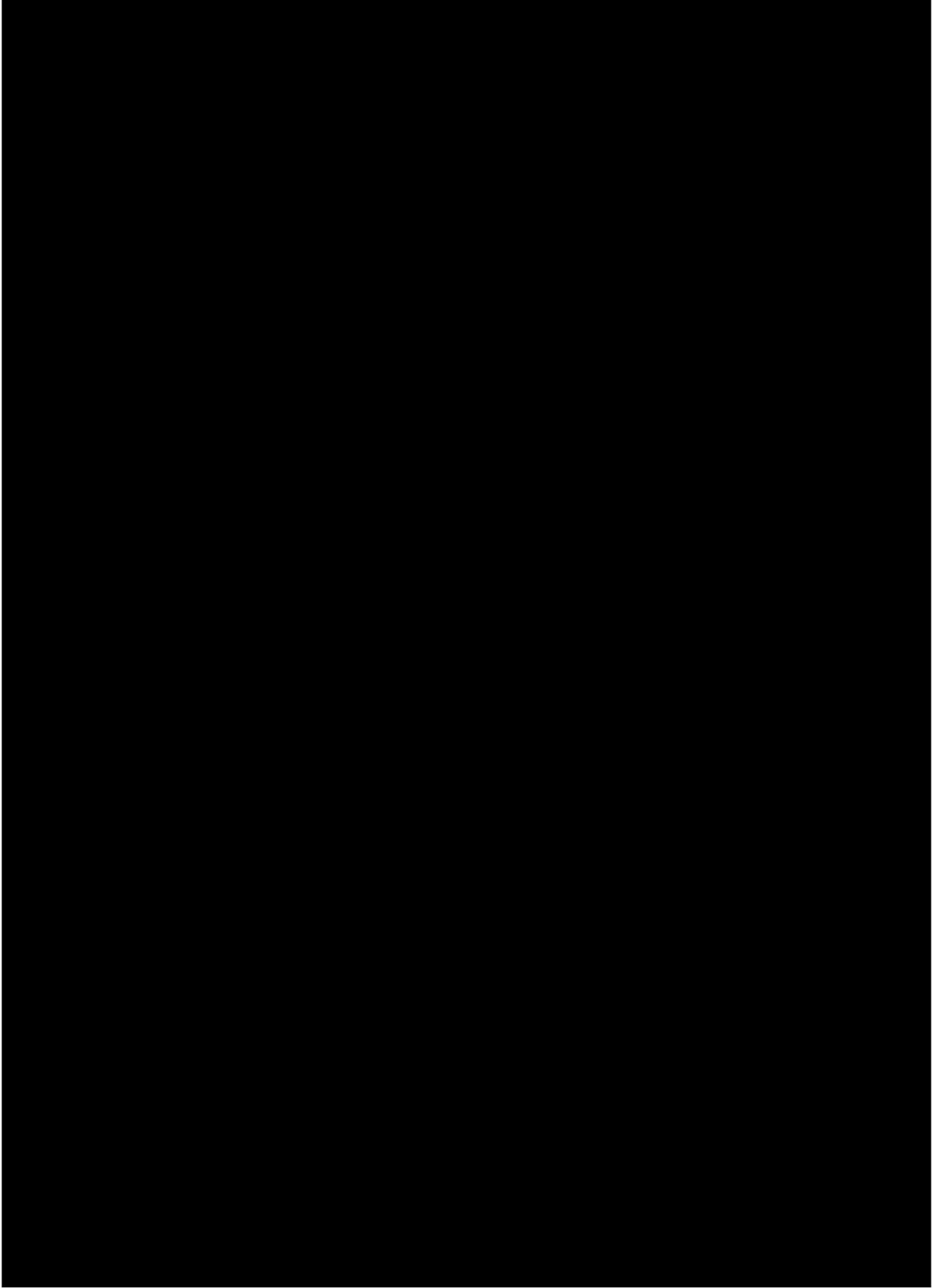
From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Jennifer Matis](#); [Christopher J. Swartz](#)
Subject: FW: (b)(5)
Date: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:27:50 AM

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:25 AM
To: Dale A. Christopher <dachrist@oge.gov>; Kaneisha T. Cunningham <ktcunnin@oge.gov>; Gilbert Carlson <gcarlson@oge.gov>; Sidney Williams <swilliam@oge.gov>
Subject: (b)(5)

Referral to GSA

Referral to GSA

Referral to GSA



Referral to GSA

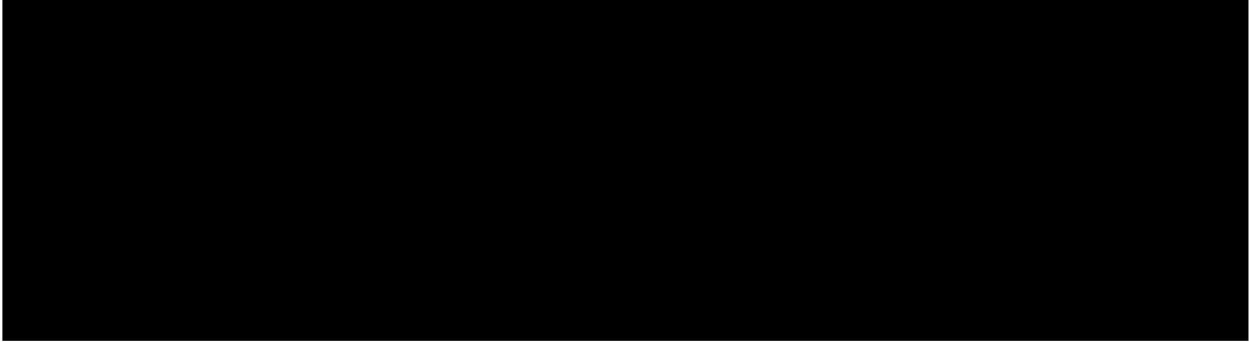
From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Diana Veilleux](#)
Subject: RE: Draft email Re: (b)(5)
Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 6:45:32 PM

Thank you. My suggested edits are below. Happy to discuss

From: Diana Veilleux <djveille@oge.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 5:52 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov>
Subject: Draft email Re: (b)(5)

How about this:

(b)(5) predecisional and deliberative



From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Teleworkers MailGroup](#)
Subject: (b)(5)
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 10:48:52 AM

(b)(5)

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the majority of the email body content, starting below the subject line and extending across the width of the page.

From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#); [Grant Anderson](#)
Cc: [Diana Veilleux](#)
Subject: FW:(b)(5)
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 8:24:57 AM

Please (b)(5).

-----Original Message-----

Referral to OSC

From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Maura Leary](#)
Subject: RE: Legislative Update for Monday, April 28, 2025
Date: Monday, April 28, 2025 11:18:32 AM

(b)(6) personal to OGE staff

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2025 11:18 AM
To: Maura Leary <mleary@oge.gov>
Subject: RE: Legislative Update for Monday, April 28, 2025

(b)(6) personal to OGE staff

From: Maura Leary <mleary@oge.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2025 11:14 AM
To: Agency Wide <AgencyWide@oge.gov>
Subject: Legislative Update for Monday, April 28, 2025

The Senate convenes at 3 pm.

The Senate convenes at 3 p.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business. At 5:30 p.m., the Senate will vote on agreeing to the Thune, R-S.D., motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of David Perdue to be U.S. ambassador to China.

The House reconvenes at 2 PM.

The chamber met for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules. Roll call votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Legislative and Related News

CQ reports that Congress is back from a two-week recess with a “head-spinning agenda on its plate,” most notably the budget reconciliation bill [attached].

Attachment not found in search.

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

CNBC reports that Democratic lawmakers are calling for an ethics investigation into President Trump’s promotion of his meme coin. [Trump dinner for meme coin buyers prompts senators to demand ethics probe](#)

The *Wall Street Journal* reports that President Trump has invested heavily in the debt of state and local governments, according to his financial disclosure report. [Trump Badmouthed Chicago but Scooped Up Its Bonds](#) [full story attached]

Attachment not found in search.

The *New York Times* reports on the Trump administration’s reinterpretation of the Hatch Act. [Trump Officials Weaken Rules Insulating Government Workers From Politics](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Reuters reports that Elon Musk is scaling back his role in the Trump administration but will remain influential as a political advisor and donor. [Musk lays groundwork for big donor role in midterm elections as time with DOGE ends](#)

GovExec reports that some federal agencies are asking employees to return to government in order to prevent catastrophic interruptions to pivotal government operations. [Some agencies are walking back workforce cuts with critical functions at risk of failure](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

Senate: May 26 – Jun 2

House: May 12

From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Diana Veilleux](#)
Subject: RE: Letter from Members of Congress to OGE RE: DOGE employees
Date: Monday, March 10, 2025 2:27:51 PM

(b)(5)

From: Diana Veilleux <djveille@oge.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 1:35 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov>
Subject: RE: Letter from Members of Congress to OGE RE: DOGE employees

Hi Shelley

(b)(5)

Thanks!

Diana

Attachment not found in search.

From: Christopher J. Swartz <cjswartz@oge.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 1:20 PM
To: LEGTEAM <legteam@oge.gov>
Subject: Letter from Members of Congress to OGE RE: DOGE employees

From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Director of OGE](#); [LEGTEAM](#)
Subject: FW: Letter from Senators Warren and Schiff
Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 12:39:30 PM
Attachments: [FINAL Warren Schiff Letter to OGE re Musk DOGE CFPB Conflicts.pdf](#)

From: Savage, Susannah (Banking) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 12:26 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov>
Cc: OGE Ethics <ogeethics@oge.gov>; Cohen, Dahvi (Schiff) <(b)(6)>
Subject: Letter from Senators Warren and Schiff

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.

Hi Shelley,
Please see attached for a letter from Senators Warren and Schiff to Acting OGE Director Collins.
Best,
Susannah

TIM SCOTT, SOUTH CAROLINA, CHAIRMAN
ELIZABETH WARREN, MASSACHUSETTS, RANKING MEMBER

MIKE CRAPO, IDAHO
MIKE ROUNDS, SOUTH DAKOTA
THOM TILLIS, NORTH CAROLINA
JOHN KENNEDY, LOUISIANA
BILL HAGERTY, TENNESSEE
CYNTHIA LUMMIS, WYOMING
KATIE BOYD BRITT, ALABAMA
PETE RICKETTS, NEBRASKA
JIM BANKS, INDIANA
KEVIN CRAMER, NORTH DAKOTA
BERNIE MORENO, OHIO
DAVID MCCORMICK, PENNSYLVANIA

JACK REED, RHODE ISLAND
MARK R. WARNER, VIRGINIA
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND
CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO, NEVADA
TINA SMITH, MINNESOTA
RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, GEORGIA
ANDY KIM, NEW JERSEY
RUBEN GALLEGO, ARIZONA
LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER, DELAWARE
ANGELA D. ALSOBROOKS, MARYLAND

CATHERINE FUCHS, STAFF DIRECTOR
JON DONENBERG, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

March 5, 2025

Secretary Doug Collins
Acting Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
250 E Street, SW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Secretary Collins:

On February 19, 2025, we asked Acting Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Russell Vought and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to provide us with information regarding the compliance of billionaire Elon Musk and other “Department of Government Efficiency” (DOGE) employees with federal ethics laws as part of their campaign to dismantle the CFPB.¹ Acting Director Vought and Secretary Bessent failed to respond. Therefore, we write to ask the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) to determine whether Mr. Musk and other DOGE officials have complied with all federal ethics laws, regulations, reporting requirements, and norms in their interactions at the CFPB.

Since its founding, the CFPB has returned over \$21 billion to millions of consumers scammed out of their money, including returning hundreds of millions of dollars to veterans, seniors, and student borrowers cheated by predatory lenders.² Efforts to shut down the CFPB are dangerous and are particularly costly for people whose claims of illegal foreclosures, car repossessions, or debanking are currently under investigation by the agency. However, despite the critical importance of the CFPB to American consumers, the Trump Administration, including Mr. Musk and DOGE, have worked to systemically undermine the agency.

As you know, Mr. Musk is a “senior advisor to the president” who has served as the public face of DOGE, an office organized within the Executive Office of the President.³ On February 6, 2025, DOGE officials reportedly entered CFPB headquarters and requested access to sensitive CFPB information, including internal staff records, competitive industry data, and personally

¹ Letter from Senators Warren and Schiff to Acting Director Vought and Secretary Bessent, February 19, 2025, https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/warren_schiff_letter_on_cfpb.pdf.

² Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, “The CFPB,” <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/the-bureau/>.

³ Politico, “Who’s in charge of DOGE? Not Elon Musk, White House Says,” Kyle Cheney, February 17, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/17/doge-administrator-elon-musk-00204639>; The White House, “Establishing and Implementing the President’s ‘Department of Government Efficiency,’” Executive Order, January 20, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/establishing-and-implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency/>.

identifiable consumer information.⁴ One day later, on February 7, 2025, Mr. Musk tweeted “CFPB RIP”.⁵ These efforts followed a stop-work order issued by then-Acting CFPB Director Scott Bessent on February 3, 2025.⁶ Since then, the new Acting CFPB Director Russell Vought has issued further stop work orders, fired hundreds of CFPB employees, and refused to draw down funds to support the agency’s work from the Federal Reserve for Q2 2025.⁷

In addition to his role as head of DOGE, Mr. Musk is the primary owner of the social media company X. Since purchasing X, Mr. Musk has considered expanding the social media platform into digital payments.⁸ On January 28, X announced a partnership with Visa to process peer-to-peer payments and launch a digital wallet.⁹ Notably, the CFPB has taken steps in recent years to protect consumers from fraud on digital payment apps¹⁰ and collects proprietary information from the digital payment industry.¹¹ Mr. Musk is also the founder and CEO of Tesla, which offers customers the option of working with Tesla to finance their auto purchases.¹² The CFPB plays a critical role in supervising the auto lending industry and protecting consumers from corporate malfeasance and scams.¹³ Therefore, actions by Mr. Musk and DOGE at the CFPB have the potential to directly benefit X, Visa, and Tesla—and by extension, Mr. Musk.

⁴ National Public Radio, “Musk’s team takes control of key systems at Consumer Financial Protection Bureau,” Bobby Allyn, Laurel Wamsley, and Chris Arnold, February 7, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/07/g-s1-47322/musks-team-takes-control-of-key-systems-at-consumer-financial-protection-bureau>.

⁵ Tweet by Elon Musk, February 7, 2025, <https://x.com/elonmusk/status/1887979940269666769?s=46&mx=2>.

⁶ National Public Radio, “Treasury Secretary Bessent, tapped to run CFPB, orders staff to halt work,” Laurel Wamsley, February 4, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/03/nx-s1-5285356/treasury-secretary-bessent-acting-cfpb-director>.

⁷ NBC News, “Russell Vought, CFPB’s new acting head, issues directives to halt parts of bureau activity,” Katherine Doyle, Raquel Coronell Uribe, and Megan Lebowitz, February 8, 2025,

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/doge/russell-vought-consumer-financial-protection-bureau-trump-rcna191356>;

Tweet by Russ Vought, February 8, 2025, <https://x.com/russvought/status/1888423503537360986>; CNBC,

“Consumer Financial Protection Bureau staff told to ‘stand down’ from all work,” Hugh Son, February 9, 2025,

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/09/consumer-financial-protection-bureau-staff-to-work-remotely-hq-shuttered.html>;

National Public Radio, “Up to 100 more workers are fired at CFPB as staff fear mass layoffs are looming,” Laurel Wamsley, February 13, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/13/nx-s1-5296929/cfpb-layoffs-staff-trump-doge>; The

Verge, “The technology team at financial regulator CFPB has been gutted,” Lauren Feiner, February 14, 2025, <https://www.theverge.com/policy/612933/cfpb-tech-team-gutted-trump-doge-elon-musk>.

⁸ CNBC, “Elon Musk’s X begins its push into financial services with Visa deal,” Hugh Son and MacKenzie Sigalos, January 28, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/01/28/elon-musk-x-visa-digital-wallet.html>.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, “CFPB Finalizes Rule on Federal Oversight of Popular Digital Payment Apps to Protect Personal Data, Reduce Fraud, and Stop Illegal ‘Debanking,’” press release, November 21, 2024, <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/newsroom/cfpb-finalizes-rule-on-federal-oversight-of-popular-digital-payment-apps-to-protect-personal-data-reduce-fraud-and-stop-illegal-debanking/>.

¹¹ Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, “CFPB Proposes New Federal Oversight of Big Tech Companies and Other Providers of Digital Wallets and Payment Apps,” press release, November 7, 2023, <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/newsroom/cfpb-proposes-new-federal-oversight-of-big-tech-companies-and-other-providers-of-digital-wallets-and-payment-apps/>.

¹² Tesla, “Elon Musk,” <https://www.tesla.com/elon-musk>; Tesla, “Financing Your Vehicle,” <https://www.tesla.com/support/financing-your-vehicle>.

¹³ Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, “Supervisory Highlights: Special Edition Auto Finance,” Issue 35, October 2024, https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_supervisory-highlights-special-ed-auto-finance_2024-10.pdf, pg. 3. “The auto-finance market is subject to various laws and regulations the CFPB enforces.”

Mr. Musk is serving as a “special government employee,” meaning that he is subject to a series of conflict-of-interest laws designed to prevent government officials from enriching themselves at the expense of taxpayers.¹⁴ Specifically, 18 U.S.C. § 208 prohibits special government employees from participating “personally and substantially” in any “decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation... judicial or other proceeding, application, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, charge, accusation, arrest, or other particular matter” that would have a “direct and predictable effect” on his or her financial interests.¹⁵ Therefore, if Mr. Musk has taken actions in his federal role that will benefit his financial interests without receiving appropriate waivers and approvals, he may have violated the criminal conflict of interest statute. Special government employees are also subject to the “Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch.”¹⁶ DOGE employees are also subject to federal conflicts of interest laws.

On February 10, 2025, Senator Schiff sent letters to former OGE Director David Huitema and White House Chief of Staff Susan Wiles requesting clarification regarding Mr. Musk’s compliance with federal conflicts of interest, ethics, and reporting requirements.¹⁷ On February 19, 2025, we sent a letter to Acting Director Vought and Treasury Secretary Bessent requesting information regarding Mr. Musk’s and other DOGE employees’ compliance with federal ethics laws in their work at the CFPB.¹⁸ On February 20, 2025, following President Trump’s announcement firing Mr. Huitema without cause and designating Secretary of Veterans Affairs Doug Collins as acting OGE Director,¹⁹ Senator Schiff sent a follow-up letter to Ms. Wiles and Secretary Collins requesting that the OGE preserve all records and correspondence regarding Mr. Huitema’s removal and inquiring, yet again, about Mr. Musk’s financial reporting obligations and any conflict of interest considerations communicated with the OGE on behalf of the White House.²⁰ We have yet to receive a response to any of these letters (enclosed).

¹⁴ National Public Radio, “Trump hired Musk as a ‘special government employee.’ Here’s what that means,” Joe Hernandez, February 13, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/13/nx-s1-5293124/special-government-employee-trump-musk-doge>.

¹⁵ 18 USC 208; U.S. Office of Government Ethics, Memorandum, “Conflict of Interest and the Special Government Employee,” February 15, 2000, [https://www.oge.gov/Web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Docs/445ECB1FB63809DA852585BA005BED9E/\\$FILE/00x1.pdf](https://www.oge.gov/Web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Docs/445ECB1FB63809DA852585BA005BED9E/$FILE/00x1.pdf).

¹⁶ 5 CFR Part 2635.

¹⁷ Letter from Senator Adam B. Schiff to White House Chief of Staff Susan Wiles, February 10, 2025, <https://www.schiff.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/20250210-Sen-Schiff-Letter-to-COS-Wiles-on-Musk.pdf>; Letter from Senator Adam B. Schiff to OGE Director David Huitema, February 10, 2025, <https://www.schiff.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/20250210-Sen-Schiff-Letter-to-OGE-on-Musk.pdf>.

¹⁸ Letter from Senators Warren and Schiff to Acting Director Vought and Secretary Bessent, February 19, 2025, https://www.banking.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/warren_schiff_letter_on_cfpb.pdf.

¹⁹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, “OGE has been notified that the President is removing David Huitema as the Director of OGE. OGE is reverting to an Acting Director. Please see OGE’s Organizational Leadership webpage,” February 10, 2025, <https://oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/News+Releases/FCCCCDB6367A7C0A85258C2D00683079?opendocument>.

²⁰ Letter from Senator Adam B. Schiff to White House Chief of Staff Susan Wiles and VA Secretary Doug Collins, February 20, 2025, <https://www.schiff.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025.02.20-Sen-Schiff-Letter-to-COS-Wiles-Sec-Collins-on-OGE-Director-Firing-2.pdf>.

OGE has historically played a critical role as the independent arbiter and enforcer of the federal criminal conflict of interest statute and other ethics rules. The office is integral to ensuring government employees, including special government employees, do not participate personally and substantially in official matters where they have a financial interest.²¹ These functions are essential to maintaining congressional and public trust in Executive Branch actions. Therefore, we ask that OGE provide answers to the following questions no later than March 12, 2025:

1. Please provide a list of all federal ethics laws and regulations that Mr. Musk is subject to in his role as Senior Advisor to the President.
 - a. Please provide any written communications between OGE and the White House, the Executive Office of the President, or Mr. Musk regarding his compliance with these ethics laws and regulations generated on or after January 20, 2025. Please preserve all relevant records and correspondence.
 - b. Please provide any written communications between OGE and the White House, the Executive Office of the President, or Mr. Musk regarding the decision to classify Mr. Musk as a “special government employee.” Please preserve all relevant records and correspondence.
2. To your knowledge, what are the employment classifications of DOGE employees that have engaged in work related to the CFPB, including any employees who may have entered CFPB headquarters and requested access to sensitive CFPB information, including internal staff records, competitive industry data, and personally identifiable consumer information?
 - a. For each of these classifications, please provide a list of all federal ethics laws and regulations that these DOGE employees are subject to.
 - b. Please provide any written communications between OGE and DOGE officials, including any DOGE officials involved in work at the CFPB, regarding compliance with federal ethics laws and regulations generated on or after January 20, 2025. Please preserve all relevant records and correspondence.
3. What contact, if any, have CFPB officials had with OGE regarding Mr. Musk’s work at the CFPB and his compliance with federal ethics laws? Please provide any written communications between the CFPB and OGE regarding Mr. Musk since February 6, 2025. Please preserve all relevant records and correspondence.
4. What contact, if any, have officials at the Treasury Department had with OGE regarding Mr. Musk’s work at the CFPB and his compliance with federal ethics laws? Please provide any written communications between the Treasury Department and OGE regarding Mr. Musk since February 6, 2025. Please preserve all relevant records and correspondence.
5. What contact, if any, have officials at CFPB had with OGE regarding other DOGE or DOGE-affiliated officials’ work at the CFPB and their compliance with federal ethics laws? Please provide any written communications between the CFPB and OGE regarding

²¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, “Analyzing Potential Conflicts of Interest,” <https://www.oge.gov/web/oge/nsf/Resources/Analyzing+Potential+Conflicts+of+Interest>.

DOGE employees since February 6, 2025. Please preserve all relevant records and correspondence.

6. What contact, if any, have officials at the Treasury Department had with OGE regarding other DOGE or DOGE-affiliated officials' work at the CFPB and their compliance with federal ethics laws? Please provide any written communications between the Treasury Department and OGE regarding DOGE or DOGE-affiliated employees since February 6, 2025. Please preserve all relevant records and correspondence.
7. What specific plans are in place at the CFPB to ensure that DOGE or DOGE-affiliated officials, including Mr. Musk, comply with federal conflict of interest rules? If no plans exist, please explain why not.
8. To your knowledge, since February 6, 2025, has Mr. Musk recused himself from any particular matters associated with DOGE's work at the CFPB, including any matters related to his position and ownership interest in X or Tesla? If so, please provide a list of the particular matters, along with copies of any written communication regarding those particular matters and recusals.
9. To your knowledge, since February 6, 2025, have any ethics waivers been issued to Mr. Musk to address his conflicts of interest, including any conflicts arising from his position and ownership interest in X, his position and ownership interest in Tesla, and from his DOGE-related work at the CFPB, including any waivers issued under 18 U.S.C. § 208? Please provide copies of any ethics waivers issued and the date you were made aware of the waivers.
 - a. If a written waiver has been provided exempting Mr. Musk from the penalties set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 208, please clarify whether the waivers was issued pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) or (b)(3).
10. To your knowledge, since February 6, 2025, have any other DOGE or DOGE-affiliated officials recused themselves from any particular matters associated with DOGE's work at the CFPB? If so, please provide a list of the employees, the particular matters from which they recused themselves, and copies of any written communication regarding those particular matters and recusals.
11. To your knowledge, since February 6, 2025, have ethics waivers been issued to DOGE employees to address conflicts of interest involving DOGE-related work at the CFPB, including any waivers issued under 18 U.S.C. § 208 or the Standards of Ethical Conduct Applicable to Executive Branch Employees? Please provide copies of any ethics waivers issued and the date you were made aware of the waivers.
12. What recusal or other measures have been put in place to ensure that DOGE or DOGE-affiliated officials, including Mr. Musk, cannot access information that would present conflicts?

13. Please provide answers to any outstanding questions included in Senator Schiff's letters sent on February 10, 2025, and February 20, 2025.

A robust response to our request is of the utmost importance. The President's decision to place a political ally at the head of OGE raises significant concerns about OGE's independence and undermines trust in the OGE as an impartial, apolitical ethics arbiter. It is therefore critical that you respond to our inquiries in full and in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Diana Veilleux](#)
Subject: FW: Letters from Sen. Schiff on Elon Musk
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 9:55:34 AM
Attachments: [20250210 Sen Schiff Letter to OGE on Musk.pdf](#)
[20250210 Sen Schiff Letter to COS Wiles on Musk.pdf](#)

From: David Huitema <dhuitema@oge.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 9:55 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov>
Subject: FW: Letters from Sen. Schiff on Elon Musk

Here's a letter that came in overnight.

From: Boland, Patrick (Schiff) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 4:30 AM
To: David Huitema <dhuitema@oge.gov>; (b)(6) Pace McMullan's email address; James C. EOP WHO Braid <(b)(6)>
Cc: OGE Ethics <ogeethics@oge.gov>
Subject: Letters from Sen. Schiff on Elon Musk

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

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES

JUDICIARY
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FISHERIES, WATER, AND WILDLIFE

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Adam B. Schiff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Adam" and last name "Schiff" clearly legible, and "B." in the middle.

Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

cc: Susan Wiles
White House Chief of Staff

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES

JUDICIARY
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FISHERIES, WATER, AND WILDLIFE

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

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam B. Schiff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Adam" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "Schiff".

Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

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

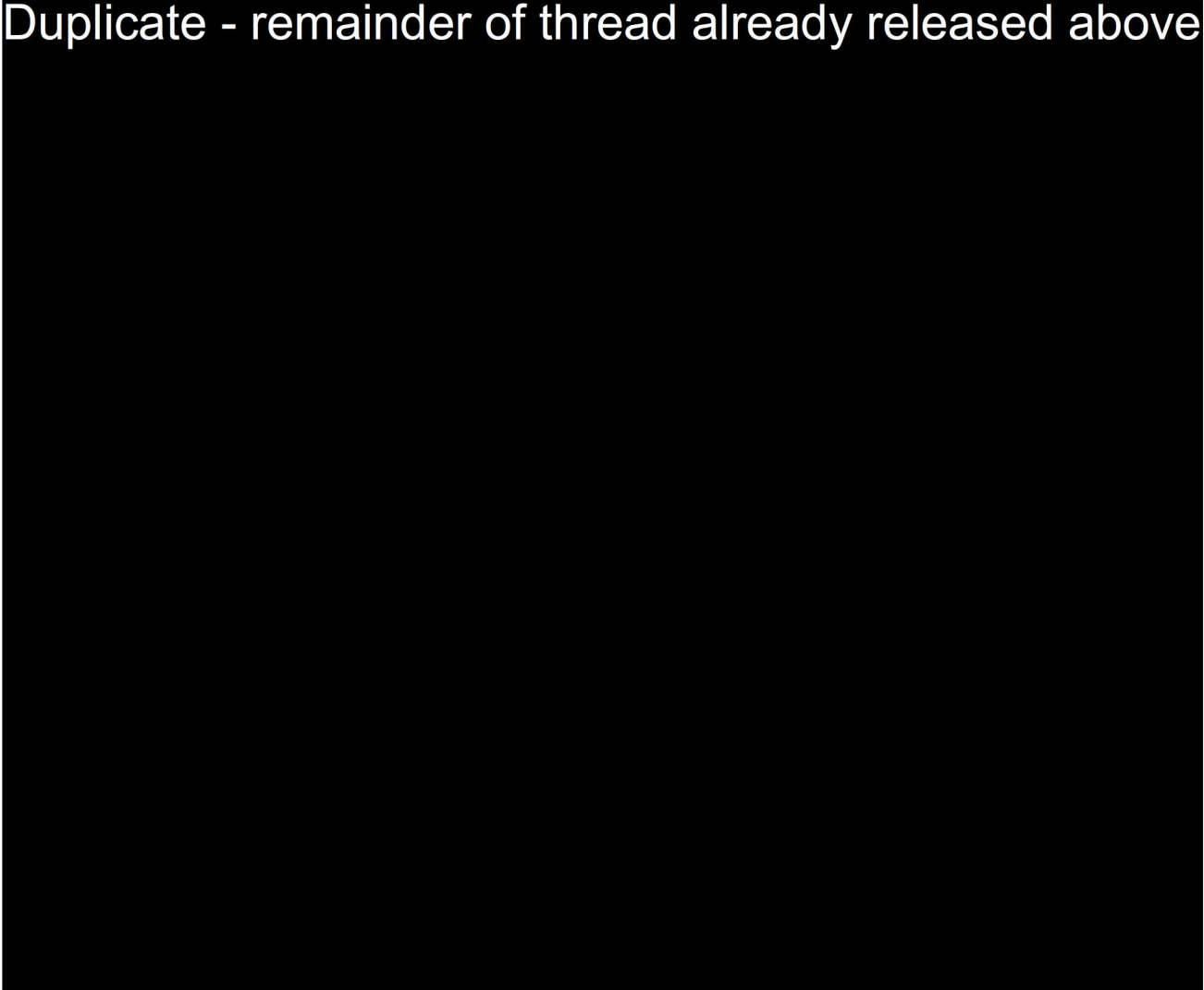
From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Dale A. Christopher](#); [David J. Apol](#); [Diana Veilleux](#)
Subject: FW: Letters from Sen. Schiff on Elon Musk
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 12:22:23 PM
Attachments: [20250210 Sen Schiff Letter to OGE on Musk.pdf](#)
[20250210 Sen Schiff Letter to COS Wiles on Musk.pdf](#)

duplicate (attachments already released above)

From: David Huitema <dhuitema@oge.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 9:55 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov>
Subject: FW: Letters from Sen. Schiff on Elon Musk

Here's a letter that came in overnight.

Duplicate - remainder of thread already released above



From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Seth Jaffe](#)
Subject: FW: Letters from Sen. Schiff on Elon Musk
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 12:22:33 PM
Attachments: [20250210 Sen Schiff Letter to OGE on Musk.pdf](#)
[20250210 Sen Schiff Letter to COS Wiles on Musk.pdf](#)

duplicate (attachments already released above)

From: David Huitema <dhuitema@oge.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 9:55 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov>
Subject: FW: Letters from Sen. Schiff on Elon Musk

Here's a letter that came in overnight.

Duplicate - remainder of thread already released above



From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Director of OGE](#); [LEGTEAM](#)
Cc: [Seth Jaffe](#); [David J. Apol](#)
Subject: FW: Letters from Sen. Schiff on Elon Musk
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025 2:20:00 PM
Attachments: [2025.02.20 Sen Schiff Letter to COS Wiles & Sec Collins on OGE Director Firing.pdf](#)

From: Boland, Patrick (Schiff) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 1:13 PM
To: Braid, James C. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>; David Huitema <dhuitema@oge.gov>; McMullan, Pace EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
Cc: OGE Ethics <ogeethics@oge.gov>; Correspondence, Legislative (Schiff) <(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: Letters from Sen. Schiff on Elon Musk

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.

Hi James,

Please see the attached letter from Senator Adam Schiff to White House Chief of Staff Susan Wiles and Acting OGE Director Doug Collins regarding President Trump's removal of Mr. Huitema as OGE Director and Mr. Musk.

We are still awaiting a response to our February 10 letter (below).

Thanks for confirming receipt.

Best,
Patrick

From: Braid, James C. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 4:47 AM
To: Boland, Patrick (Schiff) <(b)(6)>; david.huitema@oge.gov; McMullan, Pace EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
Cc: ogeethics@oge.gov
Subject: RE: Letters from Sen. Schiff on Elon Musk

Good morning, Patrick,

Receipt confirmed from WHOLA.

James Braid
Director, White House Office of Legislative Affairs
(b)(6)

From: Boland, Patrick (Schiff) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 4:30 AM
To: david.huitema@oge.gov; McMullan, Pace EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>; Braid, James C. EOP/WHO (b)(6)>
Cc: ogeethics@oge.gov
Subject: Letters from Sen. Schiff on Elon Musk

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

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES

JUDICIARY
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FISHERIES, WATER, AND WILDLIFE

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY

SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

February 20, 2025

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

Secretary Doug Collins
Acting Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
250 E Street, SW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Ms. Wiles and Secretary Collins:

I write with grave concern regarding President Trump's removal of the Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE), David Huitema, on February 10, 2025, and your subsequent designation, Secretary Collins, as Acting Director of the OGE.¹

The OGE, established in 1978, is an independent agency responsible for overseeing ethics compliance and financial disclosures for more than 140 agencies within the Executive Branch. Its work is critical to preventing financial conflicts of interest for government officials and ensuring the federal government's actions and decisions are not unduly influenced by personal financial interests. The Senate confirmed Mr. Huitema to serve as OGE Director on November 14, 2024, and he was sworn in for a five-year term on December 16, 2024.

On February 10, 2024, I sent letters to Mr. Huitema and you, Ms. Wiles, requesting clarification regarding Elon Musk's compliance with federal conflicts of interest, ethics, and reporting requirements.² This followed reporting on Mr. Musk's activities within the Executive Office of the President and access to sensitive government information while he retains significant financial interests in multiple private companies that benefit from federal government contracts.³ The White House Office of Legislative Affairs quickly confirmed receipt of this letter that same morning. Hours later, the OGE website announced that President Trump had removed Mr. Huitema from his position as Director. The statement on OGE's website did not identify any specific cause for Mr. Huitema's removal. President Trump subsequently designated Secretary Collins as interim head of both OGE and the Office of Special Counsel, after President Trump similarly removed the Special Counsel, Hampton Dellinger, without identifying the cause for Mr. Dellinger's removal.

¹ U.S. Office of Government Ethics, "OGE has been notified that the President is removing David Huitema as the Director of OGE. OGE is reverting to an Acting Director. Please see OGE's Organizational Leadership webpage," (February 10, 2025), <https://oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/News+Releases/FCCCCDB6367A7C0A85258C2D00683079?opendocument>.

² Letter from Senator Adam B. Schiff to White House Chief of Staff Susan Wiles, (February 10, 2025), <https://www.schiff.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/20250210-Sen-Schiff-Letter-to-COS-Wiles-on-Musk.pdf>; Letter from Senator Adam B. Schiff to OGE Director David Huitema, (February 10, 2025), <https://www.schiff.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/20250210-Sen-Schiff-Letter-to-OGE-on-Musk.pdf>.

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>.

The OGE's independence, coupled with consistent enforcement of the federal criminal conflict of interest statute and other ethics rules, is integral to ensuring government employees, including special government employees, do not participate personally and substantially in official matters where they have a financial interest.⁴ These functions are essential to maintaining congressional and public trust in Executive Branch actions.

President Trump's abrupt removal of Mr. Huitema as OGE Director and decision to replace him with you, Secretary Collins, a political ally, fundamentally undercuts the OGE's independence; undermines trust in the OGE as an impartial, apolitical ethics arbiter; and calls into question the integrity of the OGE's future actions until it is again under independent, Senate-confirmed leadership. This is of heightened concern to the Senate, as the Senate relies on OGE's review of financial disclosures and advice to political appointees seeking Senate confirmation.

To ensure that the Senate can undertake its constitutional oversight and legislative functions, including consideration of potential reforms to strengthen existing statutes, please take the following measures and respond to the questions below by February 28, 2025:

1. Preserve all records and correspondence in your possession and within the Executive Office of the President and the OGE regarding (1) Mr. Huitema's removal and replacement with Secretary Collins, (2) Secretary Collins' activities at the OGE and the Office of Special Counsel, and (3) Mr. Musk's financial disclosure and ethics requirements.
2. Did any White House officials communicate with any OGE officials about Mr. Musk's financial reporting obligations and conflict of interest considerations, including whether Mr. Musk would need a waiver under 18 U.S.C. § 208, *prior* to President Trump's decision to remove Mr. Huitema from his position as OGE Director? If so, please explain the nature of those communications.
3. Have any White House officials communicated with Secretary Collins about Mr. Musk's financial reporting obligations and conflict of interest considerations, including whether Mr. Musk would need a waiver under 18 U.S.C. § 208, *prior* or *subsequent* to Secretary Collins' designation to lead the OGE? If so, please explain the nature of those communications.
4. Did any White House or OGE officials raise concerns about removing Mr. Huitema or replacing him with Secretary Collins? If so, please explain the nature of those concerns and communications and preserve all records and correspondence in your personal possession and within the Executive Office of the President and the OGE regarding these concerns.

In addition, I have yet to receive a response from the White House or the OGE regarding Mr. Musk's compliance with federal criminal conflicts of interest law and other ethics and reporting requirements,

⁴ 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>.

which was requested by February 13, 2025, and reinforces concern that Mr. Musk may not be complying with his legal obligations.⁵

I look forward to reviewing your responses to these questions and intend to conduct additional congressional oversight of the Office of Government Ethics under Secretary Collins' leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Adam B. Schiff". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "A" and "S".

Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

⁵ Letter from Senator Adam B. Schiff to White House Chief of Staff Susan Wiles, (February 10, 2025), <https://www.schiff.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/20250210-Sen-Schiff-Letter-to-COS-Wiles-on-Musk.pdf>; Letter from Senator Adam B. Schiff to OGE Director David Huitema, (February 10, 2025), <https://www.schiff.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/20250210-Sen-Schiff-Letter-to-OGE-on-Musk.pdf>.

From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [David A. Meyers](#)
Subject: RE: Letters from Sen. Schiff on Elon Musk
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025 2:19:02 PM

Thanks David.

From: David A. Meyers <dameyers@oge.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 2:13 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson <skfinlay@oge.gov>
Subject: FW: Letters from Sen. Schiff on Elon Musk

Hi Shelley,

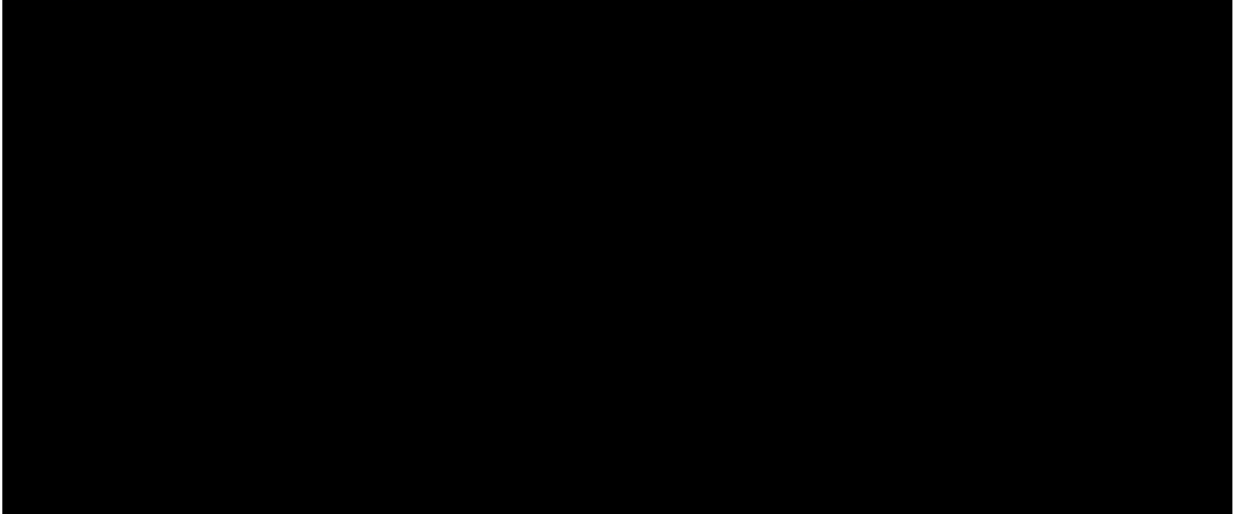
This was sent to the OGE Ethics Inbox. I forwarded it to Contact OGE and now forwarding it to you for situational awareness.

D. Meyers

Duplicate - remainder of thread already released above



Duplicate - remainder of thread already released above



Duplicate - remainder of thread already released above

