

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

February 20, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

I write to express my concern regarding your direct contradiction of a sworn statement by a White House official, provided under penalty of perjury, regarding Elon Musk's role within your Administration. As the American people can plainly see, Mr. Musk wields immense authority over the U.S. DOGE Service (USDS or DOGE) and the federal government generally, with the purported power to feed Congressionally authorized and funded federal agencies "through the wood chipper[,]" yet parts of the White House appear intent on obscuring the facts of his role.¹ To ensure transparency on the authority you have granted Mr. Musk and the legal authority he has to direct DOGE, I request that you provide substantive documentation regarding his formal role.

On January 20, 2025, you issued an Executive Order titled, "Establishing and Implementing the President's 'Department of Government Efficiency.'" ² In that order, you outline the duties of the USDS Administrator to, among other things, "work with Agency Heads."³ This official action followed your November 2024 announcement that Musk would lead the DOGE effort alongside Vivek Ramaswamy, who has since departed the initiative.⁴

You have repeatedly portrayed Mr. Musk as the head of DOGE, including at an Oval Office press conference in which you referred to DOGE as Mr. Musk's "team" in response to a question, and in which Musk repeatedly referred to DOGE's efforts as his efforts, saying, for example, that "we post our actions to the DOGE handle on X and to the DOGE website."⁵

¹ Elon Musk (@ElonMusk), X (Feb. 3, 2025) (online at <https://x.com/elonmusk/status/1886307316804263979?lang=en>).

² The White House, *Presidential Actions: Establishing and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency"* (Jan. 20, 2025) (online at www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/establishing-and-implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency/).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Trump taps Musk to Lead a 'Department of Government Efficiency' with Ramaswamy*, NPR (Nov. 12, 2024) (online at www.npr.org/2024/11/12/g-s1-33972/trump-elon-musk-vivek-ramaswamy-doge-government-efficiency-deep-state); *'Everyone Wants Him Out': How Musk Helped Boot Ramaswamy from DOGE*, Politico (Jan. 20, 2025) (online at www.politico.com/news/2025/01/20/doge-musk-helped-eject-ramaswamy-00199487).

However, in a sworn statement filed with the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Joshua Fisher, the director of the White House Office of Administration with “personal knowledge of Mr. Elon Musk’s employment status with the federal government[,]” stated under penalty of perjury that Elon Musk “is not an employee of the U.S. DOGE Service or the U.S. DOGE Service Temporary Organization[,]” that “Mr. Musk is not the U.S. DOGE Service Administrator[,]” and that “Mr. Musk has no actual or formal authority to make government decisions himself.”⁶

In direct contradiction to Mr. Fisher’s sworn statement, at a press conference on the evening of February 19, 2025, you stated, “I signed an order creating the Department of Government Efficiency and put a man named Elon Musk in charge.”⁷ This contradiction raises significant concerns that either you are lying about Mr. Musk’s role or Mr. Fisher perjured himself—a criminal offense that can lead to up to 5 years in prison.⁸

To understand Mr. Musk’s role and the authorities under which he is exercising widespread access to government data, please provide the following information and documents and answers to the following questions and request by March 6, 2025:

1. Who is the current administrator of the U.S. DOGE Service?
2. What is Elon Musk’s role in relation to the U.S. DOGE Service?
3. Has Mr. Musk ever made a decision regarding the operations of the U.S. DOGE Service or another federal agency?
4. Has Mr. Musk ever issued a directive to a member of the U.S. DOGE Service?
5. What legal authority does Mr. Musk have to access Americans’ sensitive data?
6. An organizational chart for DOGE and the U.S. DOGE Service, including all employees whose email addresses include “doge.eop.gov” or employees presenting themselves as representing DOGE at any federal entity.

⁵ See *Elon Musk, Son at Oval Office: Full News Conference* (Feb. 12, 2025) (online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sa1m5OuF5Tk) at 4:32, 12:00.

⁶ Declaration of Joshua Fisher (Feb. 18, 2025), *State of New Mexico et. al. v. Elon Musk, in his official capacity, et al.* (No. 1:25-cv-00429) (online at <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.277463/gov.uscourts.dcd.277463.24.1.pdf>).

⁷ *Trump Appears to Contradict White House, Says Elon Musk in Charge of DOGE*, Reuters (Feb. 19, 2025) (online at www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-appears-contradict-white-house-says-elon-musk-charge-doge-2025-02-20/); For video, see Anna Bower (@AnnaBower), X (Feb. 19, 2025) (online at <https://x.com/AnnaBower/status/1892351833630212494>).

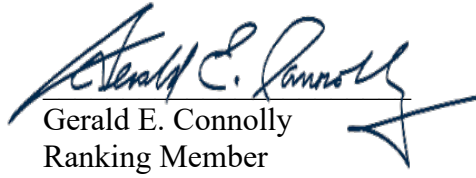
⁸ 18 U.S.C. § 1621.

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The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. It also has legislative jurisdiction over the federal civil service and the “overall economy, efficiency, and management of government operations and activities[.]”⁹ If your staff have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Connolly", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Gerald E. Connolly
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

⁹ Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, *Committee Jurisdiction* (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/about/committee-jurisdiction>) (accessed Feb. 19, 2025).