BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S., Texas
CHAIRMAN

ZOE LOFGREN, California
RANKING MEMBER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6301
(202) 225–6371
http://science.house.gov

November 12th, 2026

Mr. Ryan Whitley
[redacted]

Dear Mr. Whitley,

Pursuant to Rule X of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology "shall review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs, and Government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development."[1] The Committee possesses jurisdiction over the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).[2] The Committee is engaged in oversight related to a number of activities at NASA, including but not limited to NASA's implementation of the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2026 during Fiscal Year 2025 and DOGE's influence at NASA in 2025. In relation to that oversight, this letter serves to formally notify you of your obligation to identify, retain, and preserve all information and materials in your possession or control, including personal property if applicable, that could potentially be relevant to the Committee's oversight. *You must preserve all information and materials subject to this obligation until further notice*. In order to satisfy your obligation, it is important that you closely read and follow these instructions.

For the purposes of this letter, materials include all relevant documents, written correspondence, memorandum, records, agreements, reports, filings, drafts, data, communications, publications, notices, and notes, whether official or unofficial, and whether internal or external. These terms are to be interpreted broadly, and include but are not limited to the following examples: documents, emails, letters, day planners, electronic communications through encrypted messaging applications such as Signal, electronic communications through team communication and collaboration platforms such as Microsoft Teams or Slack, presentations, graphs, charts, spreadsheets, logs, lists, photographs, facsimiles, databases, and other audio or visual records. Your obligation applies to all information, including privileged, protected, and confidential information. No potential defense or assertion of privilege qualifies, minimizes, or alters your requirement to comply with these obligations.

[1] 119 First Session House Rules.
[2] *Id.*

While I am not requesting that you produce any materials at this time, you are obliged to undertake the following actions to preserve the Committee's ability to pursue future oversight requests with respect to the above-described materials:

1. Do not partially or fully destroy, alter, delete, shred, incinerate, wipe, relocate, or migrate potentially relevant information, and take all reasonable steps to prevent negligent or reckless handling that could render the information incomplete or inaccessible. To the extent that you use any auto-delete functions, you should immediately suspend those functions. Notify any persons with control over potentially relevant records of similar preservation obligations.

2. Maintain potentially relevant electronically stored materials. Take steps to preserve the materials' respective embedded metadata. Prevent any update from causing the information to be lost. Ascertain if any relevant materials have been archived.

3. Before any computer or electronic system that contains potentially relevant information is retired or upgraded, take steps to ensure the preservation of relevant information or materials.

4. Maintain information and materials subject to this letter in an orderly, readily retrievable manner.

Failure to act as instructed may be interpreted as the deliberate obstruction of Congress's power of inquiry. The Committee reserves the right to respond accordingly.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Josh Schneider or Sara Palasits with the Committee's Minority staff at (202) 225-6375. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

CC: Chairman Brian Babin
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology