

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

February 25, 2025

## VIA EMAIL

Mr. Brandon Ehrhart  
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary  
Tesla, Inc.  
1 Tesla Road  
Austin, TX 78725

Dear Mr. Ehrhart:

On February 5, 2025, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (“PSI” or “the Subcommittee”) wrote to you as part of an inquiry into potential conflicts of interest raised by the participation of Tesla Inc. Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk in the Department of Government Efficiency (“DOGE”). As the Subcommittee’s letter detailed, Mr. Musk’s dual roles at Tesla and DOGE could enable Tesla to both gain significant advantages over its competitors and improperly influence government agencies that regulate and oversee Tesla.<sup>1</sup> Your February 14 letter is blatantly, brazenly unresponsive and inadequate. Tesla has purposefully failed to answer the Subcommittee’s questions, magnifying concerns that Mr. Musk and his companies are intentionally indifferent to his growing power over federal agencies that regulate or contract with these companies. Tesla’s refusal to simply confirm that it will preserve all records pertaining to DOGE and related government activities indicates that Mr. Musk’s commitment to being “maximally transparent” is toothless and fails to assuage mounting unease that the companies he owns or controls will likely benefit immensely from his new role.<sup>2</sup>

Recent public reporting suggests that Mr. Musk has already begun using DOGE to target agencies responsible for investigating his questionable business practices.<sup>3</sup> The information sought in the Subcommittee’s letter is essential to providing the transparency to which the American people are entitled and which Mr. Musk promised in a press conference on February 11.<sup>4</sup> Merely asserting that Tesla has a “robust compliance infrastructure,” and that the company is “work[ing] actively to meet our compliance obligations and to address conflicts of interest” fails to live up to Mr. Musk’s promise or to address concerns about Tesla’s potential liability.

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<sup>1</sup> See Letter from Ranking Member Richard Blumenthal, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to Brandon Ehrhart, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Tesla (Feb. 5, 2025) <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025-02-05-Letter-from-Blumenthal-to-Tesla.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> See *Elon Musk appears with Trump and tries to claim ‘Doge’ team is transparent*, THE GUARDIAN (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/11/elon-musk-trump-doge>.

<sup>3</sup> *Elon Musk’s Business Empire Scores Benefits Under Trump Shake-Up*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/11/us/politics/elon-musk-companies-conflicts.html>.

<sup>4</sup> See *Elon Musk appears with Trump*, *supra* note 2.

Your letter, like the other responses PSI received from Mr. Musk’s intertwined business interests, largely recycles boilerplate material about your company’s purported accomplishments without addressing any of the Subcommittee’s concerns. Indeed, the letters to PSI from Mr. Musk’s businesses are so similar that they could all have come from the same source.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, Tesla’s suggestion that its operations are separate and apart from the activities of DOGE is irreconcilable with Mr. Musk’s actions and statements to your shareholders. On January 29, for example, during Tesla’s Fourth Quarter 2024 earnings conference call, Mr. Musk lamented that “the U.S. government won’t let us do training in China;” later in the same call, after being asked by an analyst about “your work with the administration,” Mr. Musk indicated that Tesla was “making sure that we can continue to manufacture our stuff even in the event of geopolitical tensions rising to the very highest levels.”<sup>6</sup> In other words, Tesla’s business is inextricably bound up with the very work that Mr. Musk is now conducting at DOGE. In fact, since the November 2024 presidential election, Tesla’s valuation has increased by nearly \$400 billion.<sup>7</sup>

In the spirit of Mr. Musk’s stated goal of “trying to be as transparent as possible,” I reiterate my request that you answer the Subcommittee’s questions about how your company is managing Mr. Musk’s host of conflicts and those of other company personnel.<sup>8</sup> In addition to answering the Subcommittee’s questions by March 4, please also confirm by the same date that Tesla will preserve all records identified by the Subcommittee’s February 5 letter.

Please contact the Subcommittee should you have any questions about responding to these requests. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal  
Ranking Member  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

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<sup>5</sup> The responses the Subcommittee received from Mr. Musk’s intertwined business interests—including X, xAI, The Boring Company, Tesla, SpaceX, and Neuralink—are attached hereto as Appendix A.

<sup>6</sup> *Tesla (TSLA) Q4 2024 Earnings Call Transcript*, THE MOTLEY FOOL (Jan. 29, 2025), <https://www.fool.com/earnings/call-transcripts/2025/01/29/tesla-tsla-q4-2024-earnings-call-transcript/>.

<sup>7</sup> *Musk’s Companies Set to Add \$613 Billion in Value Since Election*, BLOOMBERG (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-02-19/musk-s-companies-set-to-add-613-billion-in-value-since-election>.

<sup>8</sup> *Elon Musk appears with Trump*, *supra* note 2.

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Ms. Robyn M. Denholm  
Chair of the Board of Directors, Tesla, Inc.

Appendix A

# Appendix A



February 14, 2025

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
Ranking Member  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations  
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

I write in response to your February 5, 2025, letter to Ms. Ashley Steinberg of The Boring Company.

The Boring Company (TBC) was founded in 2017 by Elon Musk to revolutionize transportation. TBC creates safe, fast-to-dig, and low-cost transportation, utility, and freight tunnels. TBC takes advantage of full vertical integration to increase speed and reduce costs. TBC designs the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs), constructs the TBMs, designs the tunnels and stations, operates the TBMs to build the tunnels, and runs the resultant subsurface Loop transportation systems.

TBC has headquarters in both Las Vegas, Nevada where Vegas Loop has safely transported more than two million passengers, and Bastrop, Texas, where TBC designs, constructs, and tests the TBMs. We believe that TBC is the only active transportation TBM manufacturer in the nation that has been owned by United States persons for its entire history.

The Boring Company employs over 500 workers across the country in a variety of fields, including engineering, fabrication, and construction. Our workplace and employee wellness programs encourage individuals to lead healthy lifestyles, including activities such as exercising, spending time with friends and family, and engaging in pursuits that are meaningful and interesting to them outside of their professional obligations. The Boring Company frequently grants personal time off and leaves of absence to employees who need time to recharge, invest time in a personal interest, or pursue a service project so that they can return to the company ready for our next transformative initiative.

I can confirm to you that certain current and former employees of The Boring Company have chosen to engage in activities related to the Department of Government Efficiency (“DOGE”). Those that have made that choice have done so on their own volition, and any time and resources they are using to do so are not subsidized in any way by The Boring Company. While The Boring Company is a private company and is not itself affiliated with DOGE, we applaud those who have chosen to take an active role in public service at this critical time in American history.

The Boring Company has and will comply with all applicable legal obligations, including those regarding employee conduct, however it will not provide any confidential employee information.



Additionally, to the extent that The Boring Company is subject to any laws regarding conflicts of interest, it will remain – as it always has been – vigilant in ensuring that it is following such laws.

Thank you for your interest in The Boring Company.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arun Prakash".

Arun Prakash  
Chief Financial Officer



February 14, 2025

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
Ranking Member  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations  
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

I write in response to your February 5, 2025 letter.

Neuralink is a medical device company dedicated to restoring autonomy to individuals with unmet medical needs.

Our device, the Link, is a fully implantable, cosmetically invisible, wireless brain-computer interface (BCI) intended to restore autonomy to people with paralysis due to spinal cord injury or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).<sup>1</sup> With the Link, individuals who have lost agency over their arms and legs as a result of spinal cord injury or ALS can now operate their phones, computers, and assistive prosthetic limbs directly with their thoughts.

In response to the question raised in your letter, with the exception of Elon Musk, to our knowledge, no current Neuralink employee has performed services on behalf of the Department of Government Efficiency ("DOGE").

Neuralink is committed to complying with all applicable laws and regulations. We are not aware of any reason to believe that Neuralink is not in compliance.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Philip Mao".

Philip Mao  
General Counsel  
Neuralink Corp.

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<sup>1</sup> As a member of the Senate ALS Caucus, you are aware of the profound challenges faced by the tens of thousands of Americans living with this debilitating condition, and we commend your continued advocacy.



February 14, 2025

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL [REDACTED]

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

SpaceX is in receipt of your letter dated February 5, 2025.

SpaceX is the world's leading provider of space services. These services are critical to executing America's civil, national security, and commercial space needs. SpaceX designs, builds, launches, and operates all of our systems from the United States.

SpaceX's Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy are the world's most reliable rockets and have successfully launched nearly 450 times since 2010, restoring the U.S. to a position of global leadership in space launch, ahead of China, Russia, and Europe. Falcon rockets are certified and on contract for the full range of missions for the Defense and Intelligence Communities and NASA. SpaceX's Dragon is the only NASA-certified system currently performing crew and cargo transportation to the International Space Station. SpaceX is also developing Starship, the most powerful launch system in history; it is a key element of NASA's Artemis program and also supports critical national defense capabilities.

SpaceX's Starlink—comprising some 7,000 satellites on orbit and a global ground infrastructure—provides affordable high-speed, low-latency telecommunications to consumers—many previously un- or underserved—as well federal and state agencies, including the Department of Defense.

As one of the U.S. Government's most important partners and technology leaders, and as a company that provides services that are essential to America's security and prosperity, we are well informed of our legal obligations, including those applicable to government contractors. We are not aware of any reason to believe that SpaceX is not in compliance with those obligations.

Regards,

Chris Cardaci  
SpaceX

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson, Chairman, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations  
[REDACTED]





February 14, 2025

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
[REDACTED]

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your interest in the matters raised in your February 5, 2025, letter.

At Tesla, our mission is to accelerate the world's transition to sustainable energy. We believe that this mission, along with our engineering expertise, vertically integrated business model and focus on user experience differentiate us from other companies.

We design, develop, manufacture, sell and lease high-performance fully electric vehicles and energy generation and storage systems, and offer services related to our products including full self-driving for improved safety. We also strive to make our sustainable energy vehicles more accessible to customers by lowering the cost of ownership through continuous efforts to reduce manufacturing costs and by offering financial and other services tailored to our products.

At Tesla, we are committed to complying with all applicable laws, including those referenced in your letter. Indeed, our commitments are essential to our mission and enable us to continue delivering exceptional vehicles and energy generation and storage products, and providing related services, to our customers. While activities undertaken on behalf of the Administration are subject to compliance measures entrusted to those within the executive branch, we have a robust compliance infrastructure at Tesla and work actively to meet our compliance obligations and to address conflicts of interest.

We appreciate your attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brandon Ehrhart".

Brandon Ehrhart  
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary



14 Feb 2025

*Via Email*

Senator Richard Blumenthal, Ranking Member  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations  
Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee

Ranking Member Blumenthal:

I write in response to your letter of February 5, 2025, addressed to CEO Linda Yaccarino on behalf of X Corp., regarding the Department of Government Efficiency (“DOGE”).

X Corp. operates the X social media platform in the United States. X serves as the global town square and provides hundreds of millions of users each month with an opportunity to freely express themselves and engage in healthy debate. We believe open and respectful discourse is the single best way for America, and indeed humanity, to thrive. Although we celebrate those Americans who have chosen to commit some or all of their time to public service, X Corp. is a private corporation and not affiliated with DOGE or responsible for the decisions or actions of DOGE employees.

X Corp. takes seriously its legal obligations, including our responsibility to comply with all applicable laws and regulations, to address potential conflicts of interest, and to protect sensitive information. X Corp. has not attempted in any way to use DOGE or any individual involved in DOGE to gain unlawful access to proprietary government data or for any other unlawful purpose. Nor does X Corp. have any information to suggest that its employees are violating any legal or ethical obligations.

You also ask for detailed information about current and former X Corp. employees who are now working with DOGE in a variety of capacities, both formal and informal. X Corp. does not disclose confidential employee information absent a legal obligation to do so. But I can assure you that X Corp. requires its employees to comply with all applicable legal obligations, including conflict-of-interest rules. Indeed, X Corp. has a robust Code of Conduct and provides specific Conflicts of Interest & Outside Projects Guidance to its employees, in addition to a 24/7 Ethics Helpline. We are confident that our employees are following the law and applaud them for their service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wifredo'.

**Wifredo “Wifi” Fernández**  
Head of Americas  
Global Government Affairs  
X Corp.



cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman



February 14, 2025

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**By Email**

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

I write in response to your February 5, 2025 letter.

xAI is a company building artificial intelligence to accelerate human scientific discovery. Our primary product is Grok, an AI assistant that is a step toward building a system that understands the universe at a deep level.

Grok is currently available through Grok phone apps and grok.com, and also on the X platform (X, formerly Twitter, is a separate company). Currently, individuals around the globe use Grok, and businesses also use the Grok API for things like powering their own products, analyzing their data, or interacting with their customers.

The technology behind Grok has the potential to radically transform our world. As developers of such a powerful technology, we have an awesome responsibility that we take seriously. We also take seriously our obligation to comply with the laws applicable to our business, and we have no reason to believe we are not complying with this obligation. Laws applicable to those serving in the executive branch are outside our ken.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rob Keele'.

Rob Keele  
xAI