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# United States Senate

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

March 6, 2025

The Honorable JD Vance  
Vice President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Brooke Rollins  
Secretary  
Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Howard Lutnick  
Secretary  
Department of Commerce  
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U.S. Census Bureau  
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The Honorable Pete Hegseth  
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The Honorable Linda McMahon  
Secretary  
Department of Education  
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The Honorable Chris Wright  
Secretary  
Department of Energy  
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Washington, D.C. 20024

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.  
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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
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The Honorable Kristi Noem  
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
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The Honorable Scott Turner  
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The Honorable Doug Burgum  
Secretary  
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The Honorable Pamela Bondi  
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Department of Justice  
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Department of Labor  
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Washington, D.C. 20552

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Washington, D.C. 20405

The Honorable Scott Bessent  
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Acting Archivist  
National Archives and Records Administration  
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Charles Ezell  
Acting Director  
Office of Personnel Management  
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Washington, D.C. 20415

The Honorable Lee Zeldin  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
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Marco Rubio  
Acting Administrator  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

With broad reporting of federal agencies deleting information and data from government websites and concerns regarding the preservation of datasets and databases, this letter serves as notice to you to ensure compliance with all federal laws governing retention, availability, and preservation of federal records. You are responsible for ensuring that your departments, agencies, and sub-agencies do not engage in deleting any information and data in violation of federal law.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. §§ 3101, 3106; Presidential Records Act, 44 U.S.C. §§ 2201 – 2203; Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. § 3506; 18 U.S.C. § 2071 (concealing, removing, or destroying records is a criminal offense). See, e.g., *Trump Administration's Data Deletions Set off 'A Mad Scramble,' Researcher Says*, AP News (Feb. 3, 2025); *Thousands of U.S. Government Web Pages Have Been Taken Down Since Friday*, New

As the chief oversight Committee of the U.S. Senate and with respect to the Committee's broad jurisdiction over all government operations, I am directing you to retain and preserve all documents, records, and communications in your possession, custody, or control as of January 20, 2025, in accordance with the law. All officials and employees, including contractor employees and departments and agencies relying on outside experts or companies, should be advised of their obligations under applicable law. This includes retaining federal data sets, which are subject to specific protections and must remain publicly available, credible, and accurate. Additionally, please be aware that any communications on personal messaging accounts, including Signal, social media accounts, and personal email accounts, that concern government business are subject to the Federal Records Act and must be preserved.<sup>2</sup>

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized by Rule XXV (k)(2)(B) of the Standing Rules of the Senate to investigate matters that aid the Committee in "studying the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of all agencies and departments of the Government."<sup>3</sup> Under Senate Resolution 94, Sec. 12(e)(2) of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee is authorized to review "the possible existence of fraud, misfeasance, malfeasance, collusion, mismanagement, incompetence, corruption or unethical practices, waste, extravagance, conflicts of interest, and the improper expenditure of Government funds."<sup>4</sup>

Thank you for your prompt attention and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Sen. Peters' staff at (202) 224-2627.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters  
Ranking Member  
Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs Committee

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York Times (Feb. 2, 2025); *Health Resources Vanish Following D.E.I. and Gender Orders*, New York Times (Jan. 31, 2025); *A Look at Federal Health Data Taken Offline*, KFF (Feb. 2, 2025); *Justice Department deletes database tracking federal police misconduct*, Washington Post (Feb. 21, 2021); *Doctors for America, v. Office of Personnel Management et al.*, 25-cv-322-JDB (D.D.C. Feb. 11, 2025) (ordering HHS, CDC, and FDA to restore certain webpages and datasets); *National Treasury Employees Union et al., v. Russell Vought, et al.*, 25-cv-381-ABJ (D.D.C. Feb. 14, 2025) (Second Declaration of Erie Meyer; Court Order directing CFPB not to "delete, destroy, remove, or impair any data or other CFPB records covered by the Federal Records Act").

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., 44 U.S.C. § 2911; 44 U.S.C. §§ 3506, 3563.

<sup>3</sup> S. Rule XXV(k)(2)(B).

<sup>4</sup> S. Res. 94, Sec. 12(e)(2).