

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2025

Mr. Elon Musk  
Senior Advisor to the President  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. Musk,

We write regarding two recent reports of alarming security failures associated with the new DOGE.gov website and Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) employees sharing controlled government information using insecure communications channels. These incidents – whether due to maliciousness or incompetence – are inexcusable and raise additional questions about DOGE employees’ access to highly sensitive personal and national security information, and what they are doing with it.<sup>1</sup>

The sheer breadth of highly confidential government and personal information that DOGE employees have accessed, including tax, Medicare, Social Security, and national security data, has the potential to unleash a “national security nightmare,”<sup>2</sup> and has led to multiple lawsuits already.<sup>3</sup> DOGE employees have proven to be entirely unequipped to handle this access. In just a matter of three weeks, DOGE employees have fed sensitive data into artificial intelligence software,<sup>4</sup> ordered an unauthorized email server to be connected to the government network,<sup>5</sup> and have accidentally been given “write” access to the U.S. Treasury payment system.<sup>6</sup> Just days ago, DOGE recommendations led to the Trump administration firing hundreds of employees at the National Nuclear Security Administration, which safeguards our nation’s nuclear weapons, before apparently realizing their importance and frantically recalling them.<sup>7</sup> DOGE employees do not appear to fully understand much of the information to which they have been given unfettered access,<sup>8</sup> and given the cavalier and incompetent ways that they have handled this data, these individuals represent a clear threat to national security and the nation’s economy.

---

<sup>1</sup> Huffpost, “Elon Musk’s DOGE Posts Classified Data On Its New Website,” Jennifer Bendery, February 14, 2025, [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/elon-musk-doge-posts-classified-data\\_n\\_67ae646de4b0513a8d767112](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/elon-musk-doge-posts-classified-data_n_67ae646de4b0513a8d767112).

<sup>2</sup> Christian Science Monitor, “A ‘national security nightmare.’ Why Musk’s DOGE is triggering alarm bells in the intel world,” Anna Mulrine Grobe, February 12, 2025, <https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Military/2025/0212/elon-musk-doge-security>.

<sup>3</sup> Forbes, “Major Lawsuits Against Trump and Musk,” Alison Durkee, February 18, 2025, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alisondurkee/2025/02/16/here-are-all-the-major-lawsuits-against-trump-and-musk-trump-administration-asks-supreme-court-to-let-it-fire-ethics-official>.

<sup>4</sup> Washington Post, “Elon Musk’s DOGE is feeding sensitive federal data into AI to target cuts,” Hannah Natanson, Gerrit De Vynch, and Danielle Douglas-Gabriel, February 6, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2025/02/06/elon-musk-doge-ai-department-education>.

<sup>5</sup> Fedcoop, “Plaintiffs call for temporary restraining order in OPM email server lawsuit,” Billy Mitchell, February 4, 2025, <https://fedcoop.com/opm-server-lawsuit-temporary-restraining-order-musk-doge>.

<sup>6</sup> Wired, “The US Treasury Claimed DOGE Technologist Didn’t Have ‘Write Access’ When He Actually Did,” Vittoria Elliott, Leah Feiger, and Tim Marchman, February 6, 2025, <https://www.wired.com/story/treasury-department-doge-marko-elez-access>.

<sup>7</sup> CBS News, “Trump administration fires and then tries to rehire nuclear weapons workers in DOGE reversal,” February 17, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/doge-firings-us-nuclear-weapons-workers-reversing/>.

The DOGE.gov website launched on February 12, 2025, with features which allow users to “trace your tax dollars through the bureaucracy,” and containing information regarding federal agencies, including their head counts, budgets, and average ages of employees.<sup>9</sup> Immediately after it was launched, two security researchers confirmed that the website was not hosted on secure government servers, making it especially vulnerable to third-party hackers.<sup>10</sup> In fact, it appears that DOGE.gov was pulling from a database which could be written to and changed by third parties – changes which then presented on the live website.<sup>11</sup> One security researcher reported that they were able to push updates to DOGE.gov after studying the website’s architecture.<sup>12</sup> Experts indicated that the website was “completely slapped together” with “tons of errors and details leaked in the page source code.”<sup>13</sup>

A disclaimer on the DOGE.gov website indicated that the database excluded data regarding U.S. intelligence agencies.<sup>14</sup> However, details on the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), which designs and builds U.S. intelligence satellites, were searchable within the database.<sup>15</sup> Both the NRO’s budget and head count are considered to be controlled information and should not have been published to the public<sup>16</sup>, “because foreign adversaries could use it to extrapolate how much the U.S. is prioritizing certain intelligence activities.”<sup>17</sup> This incident left federal intelligence employees “scrambling” to see if their sensitive information had been accessed.<sup>18</sup>

These are not the only recent incidents in which, due to Trump administration actions, sensitive national security information may have been inadvertently disclosed. In the first week of February, officials sent an unclassified email from the C.I.A. to the Trump administration with the names of employees hired at the agency within the last two years.<sup>19</sup> These examples of DOGE’s recklessness and inability to accomplish simple tasks – such as establishing a secure database and website housing critical and confidential government data – combined with its broad access to government data and systems, pose a grave threat to the United States’ economy and national security.

---

<sup>8</sup> Politico, “DOGE’s access to federal data is ‘an absolute nightmare’, legal experts warn,” Josh Gerstein and Kyle Cheney, February 3, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/03/doge-treasury-usaid-donald-trump-011538>.

<sup>9</sup> Huffpost, “Elon Musk’s DOGE Posts Classified Data On Its New Website,” Jennifer Bendery, February 14, 2025, [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/elon-musk-doge-posts-classified-data\\_n\\_67ae646de4b0513a8d767112](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/elon-musk-doge-posts-classified-data_n_67ae646de4b0513a8d767112); Washington Post, “Musk’s DOGE launches a website tracking size of federal workforce,” Faiz Siddiqui, February 13, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/02/13/elon-musk-doge-website>.

<sup>10</sup> 404 Media, “Anyone Can Push Updates to the DOGE.gov Website,” Jason Koebler, February 14, 2025, <https://www.404media.co/anyone-can-push-updates-to-the-doge-gov-website-2>.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> Huffpost, “Elon Musk’s DOGE Posts Classified Data On Its New Website,” Jennifer Bendery, February 14, 2025, [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/elon-musk-doge-posts-classified-data\\_n\\_67ae646de4b0513a8d767112](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/elon-musk-doge-posts-classified-data_n_67ae646de4b0513a8d767112).

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> Reuters, “US spy agency data on DOGE website was ‘unclassified’ but not meant for public release,” A.J. Vicens, February 21, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-spy-agency-data-doge-website-was-unclassified-not-meant-public-release-2025-02-21/>.

<sup>17</sup> Huffpost, “Elon Musk’s DOGE Posts Classified Data On Its New Website,” Jennifer Bendery, February 14, 2025, [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/elon-musk-doge-posts-classified-data\\_n\\_67ae646de4b0513a8d767112](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/elon-musk-doge-posts-classified-data_n_67ae646de4b0513a8d767112).

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

<sup>19</sup> New York Times, “C.I.A. Sent an Unclassified Email With Names of Some Employees to Trump Administration,” David E. Sanger and Julian E. Barnes, February 5, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/05/us/politics/cia-names-list.html>.

As one cybersecurity expert summarized,

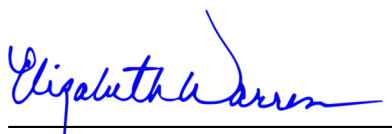
In this case, external operators with limited experience and minimal oversight are doing their work in plain sight and under massive public scrutiny: gaining the highest levels of administrative access and making changes to the United States' most sensitive networks, potentially introducing new security vulnerabilities in the process.

But the most alarming aspect isn't just the access being granted. It's the systematic dismantling of security measures that would detect and prevent misuse—including standard incident response protocols, auditing, and change-tracking mechanisms—by removing the career officials in charge of those security measures and replacing them with inexperienced operators.... The implications for national security are staggering.<sup>20</sup>

In order to better understand how DOGE is allowing such catastrophic privacy and security failures, we ask that you answer the following questions before March 6, 2025:

1. Who is responsible for establishing and enforcing security protocols related to the DOGE.gov?
2. What are the specific security protocols you have in place for:
  - a. Individuals accessing government data and systems.
  - b. The DOGE.gov website.
  - c. Other DOGE communications, including communications within DOGE, with other government entities, and with outside entities.
3. What is the security clearance process for DOGE employees?
4. What procedures are in place in case of a security breach at DOGE or with the DOGE.gov website?
5. In addition to the incidents listed above, have there been other breaches of confidential or national security data associated with DOGE's work or the DOGE.gov website? If so, please provide a list of all such incidents, and provide them in a confidential and secure fashion.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress

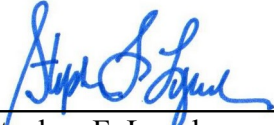
<sup>20</sup> Schneier on Security, "DOGE as a National Cyberattack," Bruce Schneier, February 13, 2025, <https://www.schneier.com/blog/archives/2025/02/doge-as-a-national.html>.



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



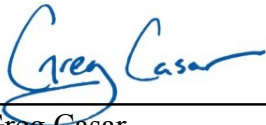
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



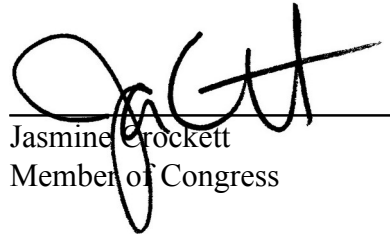
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress

CC: Amy Gleason  
Acting Administrator  
Department of Government Efficiency  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington DC, 20500