Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Vince Micone Acting Secretary of Labor 200 Constitution Ave NW Washington, DC 20210

Dear Acting Secretary Micone,

We are deeply concerned by recent reports that Elon Musk, his Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), and other non-Department of Labor (DOL) personnel have been given access to the DOL's internal systems and data.¹ This arrangement has significant implications for the security, confidentiality, and integrity of critical labor-related information, including worker protections, wage data, and employer compliance records.

As the Acting Secretary of Labor, you are responsible for upholding the rights and well-being of American workers and ensuring that labor laws are enforced as written, fairly and without external political or corporate influence. DOL oversees key programs that affect millions of workers, including workplace safety regulations, wage and hour enforcement, and labor rights protections. The reported involvement of unelected billionaire Elon Musk and DOGE in these functions raises urgent questions about potential conflicts of interest and the safeguarding of sensitive worker data.

Specifically, we seek answers to the following pressing concerns:

Data Access and Confidentiality

- 1. What specific DOL systems and databases has DOGE and non-DOL personnel gained access to so far? For what specific purpose has DOGE and non-DOL personnel accessed each of these systems?
- 2. What types of worker and employer data are being harvested or reviewed by DOGE or non-DOL personnel?
- 3. What safeguards have been implemented to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of this data?
- 4. Has DOGE or any non-DOL personnel been granted the ability to control access to or modify DOL data?

¹ Politico. *DOGE is at the DOL: Here's Why That Matters for the US Economy*. February 2025. https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/12/elon-musk-doge-labor-department-data-00203655.

Worker Protections and Regulatory Oversight

- 5. What role, if any, is DOGE playing in shaping labor policy, workplace safety enforcement, or wage compliance efforts?
- 6. What DOL regulatory enforcement actions have been altered or influenced by DOGE's involvement?
- 7. How is DOL ensuring that a private billionaire's interests do not undermine the Department's mission to protect workers?
- 8. How will the DOL address Elon Musk's conflicts of interest, given that the Department investigates and enforces actions against companies he owns?

Security and Oversight

- 9. Has an independent review been conducted to assess the potential security risks posed by DOGE's access to DOL systems?
- 10. Have background checks and security clearances been conducted for all individuals involved in DOGE's DOL activities?
- 11. What measures are in place to prevent illegal data sharing with outside entities, including Elon Musk's private business interests?

Personnel and Employment Protections

- 12. Is there potential for DOGE to unlawfully fire career personnel within the DOL?
- 13. What steps is DOL taking to ensure that career employees are protected from politically motivated dismissals or reassignments?
- 14. How will DOL ensure that a funding freeze or efforts to cut DOL staff do not prohibit the agency from upholding its duties and existing contracts?
- 15. How many probationary employees have been terminated from the DOL, and in which agencies and offices? What justification was provided for these dismissals?

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC)

- 16. What access, if any, will DOGE have to the PBGC systems? For what specific purpose has DOGE accessed any of these systems? For each system, please provide the specific reference to the specific System of Records Notice (SORN) required under the Privacy Act and list the purpose in the SORN associated with the DOGE data use.
- 17. What safeguards will be in place to ensure that DOGE will not interrupt retirees from receiving their PBGC insured earned pension payments?

- 18. What steps will be taken to ensure that DOGE does not unlawfully influence the three-member board of directors that oversees the PBGC?
- 19. Have any PBGC payment plans, or payment disbursement mechanisms been accessed or influenced by DOGE?

Elon Musk's past statements and actions raise serious concerns about the potential for his personal interests to take precedent over the interests of the American public in labor-related matters. His companies have faced multiple allegations of worker mistreatment, union-busting, and safety violations.² Granting Elon Musk's team access to DOL's internal systems seriously risks compromising the Department's neutrality and mission.

We urge you to provide transparency on this matter and take immediate steps to safeguard worker data and ensure that labor policies remain free from undue corporate influence. We request a detailed response to these questions by March 7, 2025.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Herbert C. Conaway, Jr. Member of Congress

Andy Kim United States Senator

Angela D. alsobrooks

Angela Alsobrooks United States Senator

Member of Congress

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Edward J. Markey United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin United States Senator

² Reuters. *Tesla Interfered with Union Organizing at New York Plant, US Agency Claims*. May 2024. <u>https://www.reuters.com/business/autos-transportation/tesla-interfered-with-union-organizing-new-york-plant-us-agency-claims-2024-05-09/</u>.

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