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One Hundred Eighteenth
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
1309 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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JAMIE FLEET
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

August 28, 2024

Anna Perng
Senior Advisor
White House Office of Public Engagement
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Perng:

The Committee on House Administration of the U.S. House of Representatives (Committee), which has broad jurisdiction over federal elections,¹ is conducting oversight of Presidential Executive Order 14019 (E.O. 14019)² and examining its implementation at both the state and federal level. You are being served with the attached subpoena in furtherance of the Committee's Constitutional oversight about a matter of great concern to American citizens: the integrity and fairness of our national elections.³

The Department of Health and Human Services has failed to sufficiently comply with the Committee's requests thus far. Initially, on May 15, 2024, the Committee sent a collegial document request seeking documents related to E.O. 14019. The Committee then followed up with a subpoena for those same documents dated June 12, 2024. Finally, the Committee sent the Department a reminder of noncompliance on July 29, 2024. During the course of its investigation, the Committee has learned through other sources that you have direct knowledge of actions the Department took to implement E.O. 14019.

The Committee has concerns about the implementation of E.O. 14019, particularly regarding its compatibility with provisions of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 ("NVRA").⁴ Congress delegates to federal agencies specific functions and missions, which by law they are required to follow.⁵ Congress's delegation of authority to the Department of Health and Human Services does not include using funds and resources to provide Americans with voter registration materials.

¹ Rules of the United States House of Representatives, Rule X(k)(12), <https://rules.house.gov/sites/republicans.rules118.house.gov/files/documents/Rules%20and%20Resources/118-House-Rules-Clerk.pdf>.

² Exec. Order No. 14019, 86 Fed. Reg. 13623 (March 10, 2021).

³ The "power of the Congress to conduct investigations is inherent in the legislative process. That power is broad. It encompasses inquiries concerning the administration of existing laws as well as proposed or possibly needed statutes." *Watkins v. United States*, 354 U.S. 178, 187 (1957). "The scope of the power of inquiry ... is as penetrating and far-reaching as the potential power to enact and appropriate under the Constitution." *Barenblatt v. United States*, 360 U.S. 109, 111 (1959). "Without information, Congress would be shooting in the dark, unable to legislate 'wisely or effectively.'" *Trump v. Mazars USA, LLP*, 140 S. Ct. 2019, 2031 (2020).

⁴ 52 U.S.C. §§ 20501-20511.

⁵ *Cf. Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, 603 U.S. ____ (2024); *West Virginia v. EPA*, 597 U.S. 697 (2022).

Federal law requires that only U.S. citizens who choose to register to vote must have the opportunity to do so, and every lawful vote must count according to law. Increased voter registration and participation is a goal all Americans share. At the same time, our system requires that our actions must always comply with the Constitution and federal law. According to Article I, section 4 of the Constitution, States have the primary role in establishing election law and administering elections, which includes voter registration.

And, to the extent the Elections Clause contains a federal “fail-safe,” it is Congress to which the Constitution delegates that power—not the President. The President’s role is limited to enforcing enacted legislation passed by Congress; therefore, the President must exercise great restraint when attempting to act on election law. Furthermore, the Constitution’s voting rights amendments and federal law only protect the right of U.S. citizens to vote.⁶ To protect these rights, Congress has made it a crime for noncitizens to vote in federal elections and for anyone to assist noncitizens attempting to vote.⁷

For federal employees, all the above makes compliance with the Hatch Act⁸ and the Antideficiency Act⁹ even more important, especially as we approach November’s general election. Please contact the Committee’s General Counsel T. March Bell at March.Bell@mail.house.gov or call the Committee at 202-225-8281 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration

⁶ U.S. Const. Amend. XV, § 1; U.S. Const. Amend. XIX, § 1; U.S. Const. Amend. XXIV, § 1; U.S. Const. Amend. XXVI, § 1 (amendments protecting only the right of citizens of the United States to vote); 18 U.S.C. § 611 (crime for noncitizens to vote in federal elections); 52 U.S.C. § 20501 (Congress finding in the NVRA that voting is a fundamental right for citizens of the United States).

⁷ 18 U.S.C. §§ 2, 611.

⁸ 5 U.S.C. §§ 7321-7326.

⁹ 31 U.S.C. §§ 1341-1355.

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JAMIE FLEET
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

August 28, 2024

Kumar Chandran
Acting Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition
and Consumer Services
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Acting Under Secretary Chandran:

The Committee on House Administration of the U.S. House of Representatives (Committee), which has broad jurisdiction over federal elections,¹ is conducting oversight of Presidential Executive Order 14019 (E.O. 14019)² and examining its implementation at both the state and federal level. You are being served with the attached subpoena in furtherance of the Committee's Constitutional oversight about a matter of great concern to American citizens: the integrity and fairness of our national elections.³

The Department of Agriculture has failed to sufficiently comply with the Committee's requests thus far. Initially, on May 15, 2024, the Committee sent a collegial document request seeking documents related to E.O. 14019. The Committee then followed up with a subpoena for those same documents dated June 12, 2024. Finally, the Committee sent the Department a reminder of noncompliance on July 29, 2024. During the course of its investigation, the Committee has learned through other sources that you have direct knowledge of actions the Department took to implement E.O. 14019.

The Committee has concerns about the implementation of E.O. 14019, particularly regarding its compatibility with provisions of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 ("NVRA").⁴ Congress delegates to federal agencies specific functions and missions, which by law they are required to follow.⁵ Congress's delegation of authority to the Department of Agriculture does not include using funds and resources to provide Americans with voter registration materials.

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⁴ 52 U.S.C. §§ 20501-20511.

⁵ *Cf. Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, 603 U.S. ____ (2024); *West Virginia v. EPA*, 597 U.S. 697 (2022).

Federal law requires that only U.S. citizens who choose to register to vote must have the opportunity to do so, and every lawful vote must count according to law. Increased voter registration and participation is a goal all Americans share. At the same time, our system requires that our actions must always comply with the Constitution and federal law. According to Article I, section 4 of the Constitution, States have the primary role in establishing election law and administering elections, which includes voter registration.

And, to the extent the Elections Clause contains a federal “fail-safe,” it is Congress to which the Constitution delegates that power—not the President. The President’s role is limited to enforcing enacted legislation passed by Congress; therefore, the President must exercise great restraint when attempting to act on election law. Furthermore, the Constitution’s voting rights amendments and federal law only protect the right of U.S. citizens to vote.⁶ To protect these rights, Congress has made it a crime for noncitizens to vote in federal elections and for anyone to assist noncitizens attempting to vote.⁷

For federal employees, all the above makes compliance with the Hatch Act⁸ and the Antideficiency Act⁹ even more important, especially as we approach November’s general election. Please contact the Committee’s General Counsel T. March Bell at March.Bell@mail.house.gov or call the Committee at 202-225-8281 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration

⁶ U.S. Const. Amend. XV, § 1; U.S. Const. Amend. XIX, § 1; U.S. Const. Amend. XXIV, § 1; U.S. Const. Amend. XXVI, § 1 (amendments protecting only the right of citizens of the United States to vote); 18 U.S.C. § 611 (crime for noncitizens to vote in federal elections); 52 U.S.C. § 20501 (Congress finding in the NVRA that voting is a fundamental right for citizens of the United States).

⁷ 18 U.S.C. §§ 2, 611.

⁸ 5 U.S.C. §§ 7321-7326.

⁹ 31 U.S.C. §§ 1341-1355.

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JAMIE FLEET
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

August 28, 2024

Susan Davies
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Policy
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Davies:

The Committee on House Administration of the U.S. House of Representatives (Committee), which has broad jurisdiction over federal elections,¹ is conducting oversight of Presidential Executive Order 14019 (E.O. 14019)² and examining its implementation at both the state and federal level. You are being served with the attached subpoena in furtherance of the Committee's Constitutional oversight about a matter of great concern to American citizens: the integrity and fairness of our national elections.³

The Department of Justice has failed to sufficiently comply with the Committee's requests thus far. Initially, on May 15, 2024, the Committee sent a collegial document request seeking documents related to E.O. 14019. The Committee then followed up with a subpoena for those same documents dated June 12, 2024. Finally, the Committee sent the Department a reminder of noncompliance on July 29, 2024. During the course of its investigation, the Committee has learned through other sources that you have direct knowledge of actions the Department took to implement E.O. 14019.

The Committee has concerns about the implementation of E.O. 14019, particularly regarding its compatibility with provisions of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 ("NVRA").⁴ Congress delegates to federal agencies specific functions and missions, which by law they are required to follow.⁵ Congress's delegation of authority to the Department of Justice does not include using funds and resources to provide Americans with voter registration materials.

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⁴ 52 U.S.C. §§ 20501-20511.

⁵ *Cf. Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, 603 U.S. ____ (2024); *West Virginia v. EPA*, 597 U.S. 697 (2022).

Federal law requires that only U.S. citizens who choose to register to vote must have the opportunity to do so, and every lawful vote must count according to law. Increased voter registration and participation is a goal all Americans share. At the same time, our system requires that our actions must always comply with the Constitution and federal law. According to Article I, section 4 of the Constitution, States have the primary role in establishing election law and administering elections, which includes voter registration.

And, to the extent the Elections Clause contains a federal “fail-safe,” it is Congress to which the Constitution delegates that power—not the President. The President’s role is limited to enforcing enacted legislation passed by Congress; therefore, the President must exercise great restraint when attempting to act on election law. Furthermore, the Constitution’s voting rights amendments and federal law only protect the right of U.S. citizens to vote.⁶ To protect these rights, Congress has made it a crime for noncitizens to vote in federal elections and for anyone to assist noncitizens attempting to vote.⁷

For federal employees, all the above makes compliance with the Hatch Act⁸ and the Antideficiency Act⁹ even more important, especially as we approach November’s general election. Please contact the Committee’s General Counsel T. March Bell at March.Bell@mail.house.gov or call the Committee at 202-225-8281 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration

⁶ U.S. Const. Amend. XV, § 1; U.S. Const. Amend. XIX, § 1; U.S. Const. Amend. XXIV, § 1; U.S. Const. Amend. XXVI, § 1 (amendments protecting only the right of citizens of the United States to vote); 18 U.S.C. § 611 (crime for noncitizens to vote in federal elections); 52 U.S.C. § 20501 (Congress finding in the NVRA that voting is a fundamental right for citizens of the United States).

⁷ 18 U.S.C. §§ 2, 611.

⁸ 5 U.S.C. §§ 7321-7326.

⁹ 31 U.S.C. §§ 1341-1355.

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JAMIE FLEET
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

August 28, 2024

David Jones
White House Liaison
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Mr. Jones:

The Committee on House Administration of the U.S. House of Representatives (Committee), which has broad jurisdiction over federal elections,¹ is conducting oversight of Presidential Executive Order 14019 (E.O. 14019)² and examining its implementation at both the state and federal level. You are being served with the attached subpoena in furtherance of the Committee's Constitutional oversight about a matter of great concern to American citizens: the integrity and fairness of our national elections.³

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has failed to sufficiently comply with the Committee's requests thus far. Initially, on May 15, 2024, the Committee sent a collegial document request seeking documents related to E.O. 14019. The Committee then followed up with a subpoena for those same documents dated June 12, 2024. Finally, the Committee sent HUD a reminder of noncompliance on July 29, 2024. During the course of its investigation, the Committee has learned through other sources that you have direct knowledge of actions the Department took to implement E.O. 14019.

The Committee has concerns about the implementation of E.O. 14019, particularly regarding its compatibility with provisions of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 ("NVRA").⁴ Congress delegates to federal agencies specific functions and missions, which by law they are required to follow.⁵ Congress's delegation of authority to the Department of Housing and Urban Development does not include using funds and resources to provide Americans with voter registration materials.

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⁴ 52 U.S.C. §§ 20501-20511.

⁵ *Cf. Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, 603 U.S. ____ (2024); *West Virginia v. EPA*, 597 U.S. 697 (2022).

Federal law requires that only U.S. citizens who choose to register to vote must have the opportunity to do so, and every lawful vote must count according to law. Increased voter registration and participation is a goal all Americans share. At the same time, our system requires that our actions must always comply with the Constitution and federal law. According to Article I, section 4 of the Constitution, States have the primary role in establishing election law and administering elections, which includes voter registration.

And, to the extent the Elections Clause contains a federal “fail-safe,” it is Congress to which the Constitution delegates that power—not the President. The President’s role is limited to enforcing enacted legislation passed by Congress; therefore, the President must exercise great restraint when attempting to act on election law. Furthermore, the Constitution’s voting rights amendments and federal law only protect the right of U.S. citizens to vote.⁶ To protect these rights, Congress has made it a crime for noncitizens to vote in federal elections and for anyone to assist noncitizens attempting to vote.⁷

For federal employees, all the above makes compliance with the Hatch Act⁸ and the Antideficiency Act⁹ even more important, especially as we approach November’s general election. Please contact the Committee’s General Counsel T. March Bell at March.Bell@mail.house.gov or call the Committee at 202-225-8281 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration

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⁷ 18 U.S.C. §§ 2, 611.

⁸ 5 U.S.C. §§ 7321-7326.

⁹ 31 U.S.C. §§ 1341-1355.

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JAMIE FLEET
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

August 28, 2024

Kimberly Vitelli
Administrator
Office of Workforce Investment
Employment and Training Administration
Department of Labor

Dear Administrator Vitelli:

The Committee on House Administration of the U.S. House of Representatives (Committee), which has broad jurisdiction over federal elections,¹ is conducting oversight of Presidential Executive Order 14019 (E.O. 14019)² and examining its implementation at both the state and federal level. You are being served with the attached subpoena in furtherance of the Committee's Constitutional oversight about a matter of great concern to American citizens: the integrity and fairness of our national elections.³

The Department of Labor has failed to sufficiently comply with the Committee's requests thus far. Initially, on May 15, 2024, the Committee sent a collegial document request seeking documents related to E.O. 14019. The Committee then followed up with a subpoena for those same documents dated June 12, 2024. Finally, the Committee sent the Department a reminder of noncompliance on July 29, 2024. During the course of its investigation, the Committee has learned through other sources that you have direct knowledge of actions the Department took to implement E.O. 14019.

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For federal employees, all the above makes compliance with the Hatch Act⁸ and the Antideficiency Act⁹ even more important, especially as we approach November’s general election. Please contact the Committee’s General Counsel T. March Bell at March.Bell@mail.house.gov or call the Committee at 202-225-8281 with any questions or concerns.

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Bryan Steil
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⁸ 5 U.S.C. §§ 7321-7326.

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