

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

We write to request information and documents concerning the activities, disclosures, and potential conflicts of interest of Mr. Tyler Hassen, the reportedly outgoing Principal Deputy Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, who led the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) efforts at the Department of the Interior (Department).

At the Department, Mr. Hassen was tasked with “lead[ing] and coordinat[ing] the consolidation, unification, and optimization efforts within the Department and its Bureaus and Offices,” including the Department’s Reorganization Plan.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Hassen has seemingly exercised these broad authorities with little or no restraint, publicly stating that he reviews “every single contract, every single grant” at the Department,<sup>2</sup> demanding access to sensitive payroll and personnel data, attempting to terminate an associate Department solicitor for raising concerns,<sup>3</sup> and filing notices in the *Federal Register* to extend the Department’s freeze on regulations, including those affecting fossil fuel company activities on Federal land.<sup>4,5,6</sup> Mr. Hassen took these and other significant actions without submitting public financial disclosures or going through the Senate confirmation process, depriving Congress and the public of the transparency and accountability that are fundamental to the integrity of federal decision-making. Ethics agreements and the disclosure and resolution of financial conflicts of interest are essential for those in leadership positions within the federal government. Public service is a public trust: federal employees are required place loyalty

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, *SO 3429 – Consolidation, Unification and Optimization of Administrative Functions*. April 17, 2025. <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order/so-3429-consolidation-unification-and-optimization-administrative>

<sup>2</sup> The Washington Post, *Interior secretary gives DOGE aide sweeping powers to remake department*. April 21, 2025. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2025/04/21/tyler-hassen-department-of-interior/>

<sup>3</sup> E&E News. *Former DOGE official cannot legally fire Interior lawyer, group says*. May 5, 2025. <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2025/05/05/former-doge-official-cannot-legally-fire-interior-lawyer-group-says-00326676>

<sup>4</sup> Federal Register, *Practices Before the Department of the Interior; Further Delay of Effective Date*. March 18, 2025. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/18/2025-04310/practices-before-the-department-of-the-interior-further-delay-of-effective-date>

<sup>5</sup> Federal Register, *Practices Before the Department of the Interior; Further Delay of Effective Date*. May 5, 2025. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/05/2025-07725/practices-before-the-department-of-the-interior-delay-of-effective-date>

<sup>6</sup> Federal Register, *Practices Before the Department of the Interior; Further Delay of Effective Date*. June 9, 2025. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/06/09/2025-10374/practices-before-the-department-of-the-interior-delay-of-effective-date>

to the Constitution, federal law, and ethical principles above private gain.<sup>7</sup> Executive Branch personnel, including those at the Department of the Interior are required to prevent conflicts of interest and ensure that government decisions are made without personal bias and private gain. Department employees are also bound by the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch, which set forth rules on conflicts of interest, the use of public office for personal gain, and other legal obligations.<sup>8</sup> The Department further requires employees to recuse themselves from certain matters to avoid conflicts between official duties and any financial interests or existing relationships.<sup>9</sup>

In March, you signed Secretarial Order 3414, giving Tyler Hassen authority as Assistant Secretary of Policy, Management and Budget.<sup>10</sup> In April, you gave him sweeping powers to reorganize the entire Department.<sup>11</sup> Mr. Hassen is a former oil executive who has substantial energy-related financial interests and has reportedly made millions from Basin Holdings, a company involved in the manufacture, sale, and servicing of oil rigs.<sup>12</sup> He has a stake in Albemarle Corporation, which is currently seeking approval from the Bureau of Land Management to expand the size of its lithium mine in Nevada.<sup>13</sup>

Your Secretarial Orders empowered Mr. Hassen to oversee an agency that regulates the very industries in which he has a vested financial interest. However, according to the Office of Government Ethics website, Mr. Hassen's Certificate of Divestiture was uploaded on July 12, 2025, just three weeks before his reportedly anticipated departure from the Department on August 1.<sup>14</sup> Given Mr. Hassen's significant role in "reorganizing" the Department, indiscriminately purging employees, and making critical funding decisions, information regarding his financial disclosure, ethics agreement, and any conflicts of interest are important for ensuring the actions he takes benefit the American people rather than his own financial interests and should be made public.

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<sup>7</sup> U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *14 General Principles of Ethical Conduct*.

[https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/0/B97C62717328457B852585B6005A180D/\\$FILE/14%20General%20Principles.pdf](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/0/B97C62717328457B852585B6005A180D/$FILE/14%20General%20Principles.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, *Update to the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch*. <https://www.doi.gov/media/document/update-standards-ethical-conduct-employees-executive-branch>

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, *Recusal Best Practices for DOI Employees*. <https://www.doi.gov/ethics/recusal-best-practices-for-doi-employees>

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, *SO 3414 A3 – Amendment to SO 3414 Establishment of New Department Leadership Team and Temporary Redelegation of Authority*. March 7, 2025. <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order/so-3414-a3-amendment-so-3414-establishment-new-department>

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, *SO 3429 – Consolidation, Unification and Optimization of Administrative Functions*. April 17, 2025. <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order/so-3429-consolidation-unification-and-optimization-administrative>

<sup>12</sup> Martha Bellisle, *Here's what a Texas oil executive from DOGE is doing inside the Interior Department*. Associated Press. May 27, 2025. <https://apnews.com/article/hassen-burgum-musk-interior-energy-conflicts-830e9df68c7869e943f96c4b5e384f20>

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Office of Government Ethics, *Officials' Individual Disclosures Search Collection*. <https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Officials%20Individual%20Disclosures%20Search%20Collection?OpenForm>

This administration has a long track record of officials leveraging public office for private financial benefit.<sup>15</sup> President Trump promoted Tesla vehicle sales at the White House,<sup>16</sup> used his position to advance the value of his own cryptocurrency ventures,<sup>17,18,19,20,21</sup> accepted a luxury plane from a foreign government as a gift that will become an asset of his presidential library,<sup>22</sup> and refused to divest from the Trump Organization.<sup>23</sup> Similarly, when Elon Musk was appointed as a Special Government Employee to lead the Department of Government Efficiency, he retained major conflicts of interest and substantial financial stakes in companies actively pursuing and maintaining federal contracts.<sup>24</sup> Public records show that Mr. Musk's companies have "received at least \$38 billion in government contracts, loans, subsidies and tax credits."<sup>25</sup>

Mr. Hassen's financial entanglements are consistent with many others across the administration. We remain concerned that his actions at the Department may be influenced by the prospect of personal gain through the weakening of agencies tasked with regulating the fossil fuel and mining sectors to which he has significant financial connections. While nominally brought on to reorganize the Interior Department, Mr. Hassan's actions have instead done little more than undermine the systems and staff responsible for protecting the public interest from the oil and gas industry.

The House Committee on Natural Resources has jurisdiction under House Rule X.1(m) to conduct oversight and investigations on matters related to the Department of the Interior, including public lands, fisheries and wildlife, conservation, petroleum conservation, irrigation and reclamation,

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<sup>15</sup> The New York Times, *An Illustrated Guide to Trump's Conflict of Interest Risks*. January 24, 2025.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/01/17/us/politics/trump-conflicts-of-interest.html>

<sup>16</sup> The White House, *President Trump Views Teslas with Elon Musk at the White House*.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/gallery/president-trump-views-teslas-with-elon-musk-at-the-white-house/>

<sup>17</sup> U.S. House Committee on Financial Services Democrats, *Day 1: \$TRUMP Isn't a Coin, It's a Con*. July 13, 2025.

<https://democrats-financialservices.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=413626>

<sup>18</sup> U.S. House Committee on Financial Services Democrats, *Day 2: Trump's World Liberty Financial Grift Part I*.

July 14, 2025. <https://democrats-financialservices.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=413632>

<sup>19</sup> U.S. House Committee on Financial Services Democrats, *Day 3: Inside the Foreign Influence Behind Trump's World Liberty Financial Grift*. July 15, 2025.

<https://democrats-financialservices.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=413642>

<sup>20</sup> U.S. House Committee on Financial Services Democrats, *Day 4: Dropping Lawsuits and Gutting Crypto Watchdogs*. July 16, 2025.

<https://democrats-financialservices.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=413649>

<sup>21</sup> U.S. House Committee on Financial Services Democrats, *Day 5: Crypto Has Made Trump \$1.2 BILLION Richer – and Counting*. July 17, 2025.

<https://democrats-financialservices.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=413677>

<sup>22</sup> USA Today, *With \$37 million and a jet, Trump's presidential library takes off, Eric Trump as pilot*. May 24, 2025.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/05/24/trump-presidential-library-jet-meta-abc/83844165007/>

<sup>23</sup> Reuters, *Trump will not be involved in managing family business as president, company says*. January 10, 2025.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/trump-will-separate-himself-family-business-wsj-reports-2025-01-10/>

<sup>24</sup> The Wall Street Journal, *Trump Aides Discussed Ending Some SpaceX Contracts, but Found Most Were Vital*. July 19, 2025. <https://www.wsj.com/business/trump-aides-discussed-ending-some-spacex-contracts-but-found-most-were-vital->

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<sup>25</sup> The Washington Post, *Elon Musk's business empire is built on \$38 billion in government funding*. February 26,

2025. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/interactive/2025/elon-musk-business-government-contracts-funding/>

Indigenous peoples of the United States, mining interests, and marine affairs. To assist the Committee's oversight responsibilities, please provide the following documents by no later than September 16, 2025:

1. All of Tyler Hassen's financial disclosures, ethics agreements, and any remedial actions or commitments related to conflicts of interest including ethics waivers, recusals, or divestments;
2. Documents sufficient to describe the positions and official duties of Tyler Hassen, up to and including September 2;
3. Certificate of Divestiture OGE-2025-150;
4. Communications between Tyler Hassen and the Departmental Ethics Office;
5. Tyler Hassen's calendar and daily schedule from January 20 to September 2; and
6. Any other documents showing meetings in which Tyler Hassen is included in any capacity.

Please contact the Natural Resources Committee Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee minority staff at (202) 225-6065 with any questions about this request. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Natural  
Resources



Maxine Dexter  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight and  
Investigations

## **Responding to Committee Documents Requests**

In responding to document requests from the Committee on Natural Resources, please apply the instructions and definitions set forth below:

### **Instructions**

1. In complying with the request, you should produce all responsive documents that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents, employees, and representatives acting on your behalf. You should also produce documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy, or to which you have access, as well as documents that you have placed in the temporary possession, custody, or control of any third party. Requested records, documents, data, or information should not be destroyed, modified, removed, transferred, or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee.
2. In the event that any entity, organization, or individual denoted in this request has been, or is currently, known by any other name than that herein denoted, the request should be read also to include them under that alternative identification.
3. Documents must be provided in electronic form and transmitted securely via the internet. Documents produced should also be organized, identified, and indexed electronically. Documents should be produced in their native file format. For example, emails from Microsoft Outlook should have a “.pst” file extension, Excel files should have an “.xls\_” or similar extension, and Microsoft Word documents should have a “.doc\_” extension. Consult with the Committee to determine the appropriate format in which to produce the information.
4. Each document produced should be produced in a form that renders the document capable of being copied.
5. Documents produced to the Committee should include an index describing the contents of the production. To the extent more than one package is transmitted via the internet, each should contain an index describing its contents.
6. Documents produced in response to this request should be produced together with copies of file labels, dividers, or identifying markers with which they were associated when this request was issued. To the extent that documents were not stored with file labels, dividers, or identifying markers, they should be organized into separate folders by subject matter prior to production.
7. When you produce documents, you should identify the paragraph in the Committee’s schedule to which the documents respond.
8. It shall not be a basis for refusal to produce documents that any other person or entity also possesses a non-identified or identical copy of the same documents.

9. If compliance with the request cannot be made in full, compliance should be made to the extent possible and should include an explanation of why full compliance is not possible.
10. In the event that any document or part of a document is withheld on the basis of privilege, provide a privilege log containing the following information concerning any such document or part of a document: (2) the privilege asserted; (b) the type of document; (c) the general subject matter; (d) the date, author and addressee; and € the relationship of the author and the addressee to each other.
11. If any document responsive to this request was, but no longer is, in your possession, custody, or control, you should identify the document (stating its date, author, subject and recipient) and explain the circumstances by which the document ceased to be in your possession, custody, or control.
12. If a date or other descriptive detail set forth in this request referring to a document is inaccurate, but the actual date or other descriptive detail is known to you or is otherwise apparent from the context of the request, you should produce all documents which would be responsive as if the date or other descriptive detail were correct.
13. This request is continuing in nature and applies to any newly-discovered information. Any record, document, compilation of data, or information not produced because it has not been located or discovered by the return date should be produced immediately upon location or discovery subsequent thereto.
14. All documents should be Bates-stamped sequentially and produced sequentially.
15. Documents produced to the Committee in response to this request should be transmitted securely via the internet. If the Committee agrees to accept hard copies of any documents, they can be delivered to Room 1332 of the Longworth House Office Building.

### Definitions

1. The term “**document**” means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, working papers, records notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, interoffice and intra-office communications, electronic mail (e-mail), contracts, cables, notifications of any type of conversation, telephone calls, text messages, MMS or SMS messages, other mobile-to-mobile messages, instant messages or online chat messages, meetings or other communications, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices

thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, voice mails, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic and mechanical records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, computer server files, computer hard drive files, CDs, DVDs, memory sticks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape or otherwise. A document bearing any notation not part of the original text is to be considered a separate document. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.

2. The term “**documents in your possession, custody, or control**” means (a) documents that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents, employees, or representatives acting on your behalf; (b) documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy, or to which you have access; and (c) documents that you have placed in the temporary possession, custody, or control of any third party.
3. The term “**communication**” means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether face-to-face, in a meeting, by telephone, facsimile, mail, e-mail (desktop or mobile device), text message, MMS or SMS message, other mobile-to-mobile message, instant message or online chat, telexes, releases, personal delivery, or otherwise.
4. The terms “**and**” and “**or**” shall be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The singular includes plural number, and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neuter genders.
5. The terms “**person**” or “**persons**” means natural persons, firms, partnerships, association, corporations, subsidiaries, divisions, departments, joint ventures, proprietorships, syndicates, or other legal, business or government entities, and all subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, departments, branches, and other units thereof.
6. The term “**identify**” when used in a question about individuals, means to provide the following information: (a) the individual’s complete name and title; and (b) the individual’s business address and phone number.
7. The terms “**referring**” or “**relating**” with respect to any given subject, means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with or is in any manner whatsoever pertinent to that subject.
8. The term “**employee**” means agent, borrowed employee, casual employee, consultant, contractor, de facto employee, independent contractor, joint adventurer, loaned employee, part-time employee, permanent employee, provisional employee, subcontractor, or any other type of service provider.