



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Peter A. DeFazio
Chairman

Katherine W. Dedrick
Staff Director

Sam Graves
Ranking Member

Paul J. Sass
Republican Staff Director

March 9, 2022

The Honorable Robin Carnahan
Administrator
General Services Administration (GSA)
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Administrator Carnahan:

The United States has recently imposed expanded sanctions in response to Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.¹ These sanctions add to existing layers of sanctions imposed in recent years related to Russian malfeasance by both Democratic and Republican administrations.²

We request an explanation of GSA's process to determine the applicability of any such sanctions to its real estate activities, including but not limited to its lease of the Old Post Office building in Washington, D.C. – the pending sale of which is currently under review by GSA. Further, we would like GSA to explain what established processes or new measures GSA is taking to abide by all applicable sanctions as a general matter in its real estate activities. For example, how does GSA determine that no one from the Specifically Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List of the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Asset Control is involved in the purchase of the Old Post Office building?³

¹ For example, U.S. Dept. of the Treasury, "Treasury Sanctions Russians Bankrolling Putin and Russia-Backed Influence Actors," (March 3, 2022), accessed here: <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0628>.

² Executive Order 14024, "Blocking Property With Respect To Specified Harmful Foreign Activities of the Government of the Russian Federation," 86 Fed. Reg. 73, 20249 (April 19, 2021), accessed here: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/126/14024.pdf>; U.S. Dept. of Treasury, "Treasury Designates Russian Oligarchs, Officials, and Entities in Response to Worldwide Malign Activity," (April 6, 2018), accessed here: <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm0338>; see generally, CRS, "U.S. Sanctions on Russia" (updated Jan. 18, 2022), accessed here: <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/row/R45415.pdf>.

³ U.S. Dept. of the Treasury, "Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List (SDN) Human Readable List (updated March 7, 2022), accessed here: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/specially-designated-nationals-and-blocked-persons-list-sdn-human-readable-lists>

Administrator Carnahan

March 9, 2022

Page 2

As you know, the Old Post Office lease is, "...governed by the federal laws of the United States of America..." and therefore it would seem apparent that any outlease sale involving the Old Post Office would have to be verified to comply with United States sanctions.⁴

We would appreciate your response by March 16, 2022. Thank you for your timely attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



PETER A. DeFAZIO
Chair



DINA TITUS
Chair
Subcommittee on Economic
Development, Public Buildings, and
Emergency Management

cc: The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

The Honorable Daniel Webster, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic Development,
Public Buildings, and Emergency Management

⁴ General Services Administration, *Ground Lease, By and Between The United States of America (as "Landlord") and Trump Old Post Office LLC (as "Tenant")* (GS-LS-11-1307), Section 37.2 (Aug. 5, 2013), 97. Accessed here: <https://www.gsa.gov/reference/freedom-of-information-act-foia/electronic-reading-room> at "Ground lease Segment One part 2."