



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

Sam Graves
Chairman

Rick Larsen
Ranking Member

Jack Ruddy, Staff Director

Katherine W. Dedrick, Democratic Staff Director

February 10, 2025

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro,

We write to ask that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct an investigation of any access the Senior Official Performing the Duties of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Cameron Hamilton or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem has granted Elon Musk and other “Department of Government Efficiency” employees to FEMA’s data and payment systems. These systems are the backbone of FEMA’s efforts to help communities before, during, and after disasters. Given FEMA’s position within the Department of Homeland Security, these systems may contain highly sensitive national security information. GAO should investigate and identify who was granted access to these systems, why and how this access was granted and the implications for national security, privacy protection, and nationwide disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

We are highly concerned that Mr. Musk and his team could have access to the Private Personal Information (PPI) of millions of disaster victims and National Flood Insurance Policy Holders. When individuals register for FEMA aid and purchase federal flood insurance, they trust that their private information, including Social Security numbers, will be protected by the federal government. Recklessly granting such information to Mr. Musk and his team puts disaster survivors’ sensitive information and identities at risk after they may have lost everything.

Additionally, Mr. Musk and his team have publicly stated that they intend to use access to federal government systems to enact President Trump’s political agenda and restrict disbursement of money approved for specific purposes by Congress. Such restrictions of funding within FEMA could upend communities’ ability to implement disaster resilience measures, cut

funding used to save lives and repair critical infrastructure, and leave disaster survivors without the resources they need to rebuild their lives.

Given the threats to Americans' privacy and the national security risks posed by Mr. Musk and his team's access to FEMA's systems, we request GAO conduct this investigation as rapidly as possible. This investigation should answer the following questions:

1. Have Mr. Musk and members of his team been granted access to FEMA's federal payment systems including but not limited to the Grants Management System, the Integrated Financial Management Information System, and FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO)?
 - If yes, what specific systems and information have they accessed? What specifically have they done with the information accessed? What was the rationale?
2. Which individuals at DHS and/or FEMA granted Mr. Musk and members of his team access?
3. Was any undue pressure placed upon career officials at DHS and/or FEMA to grant access?
4. If Mr. Musk or members of his team were granted access to these systems did they have appropriate training and required clearances?
5. Did Mr. Musk or members of his team breach any laws, rules, regulations, or policies that are in place to protect privacy including the *Privacy Act* (5 U.S.C. 522a)?
6. Did Mr. Musk or members of his team breach any laws, rules, regulations, or policies in place to protect national security and classified information including the *Espionage Act* (18 U.S.C. 37, 793) and the *Classified Information Procedures Act* (18a U.S.C. 96-456)?
7. Did Mr. Musk or members of his team advise the Trump Administration to take actions that breach any laws, rules, regulations or policies pertaining to the *Impoundment Control Act* (2 U.S.C. 17B), including freezing the disbursement of grant payments mandated by Congress?
8. Did Mr. Musk or members of his team breach any other law, rules, regulations, or policies designed to protect national security, the private information of Americans, protect federal employees, and enforce Acts of Congress?
9. Has the pace of disaster assistance provided by FEMA to disaster victims been slowed by actions taken by Mr. Musk and his team upon accessing these systems.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure



Greg Stanton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic
Development, Public Buildings and
Emergency Management