

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051  
MINORITY (202) 225-5074  
<https://oversight.house.gov>

February 22, 2021

Mr. Austin Evers  
Executive Director  
American Oversight  
1030 15th St. NW, Suite B255  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Evers,

We are writing to inquire about your recent joint campaign with Accountable US entitled *Campaign Against Corporate Complicity*, which seeks to blacklist certain Americans from employment after their public service on behalf of the federal government.<sup>1</sup> This campaign perpetuates disgraceful discrimination and intends to unjustly punish former federal government employees for carrying out the policy of a duly elected president—tactics that have no place in America.

Though American Oversight claims to be a “non-partisan, nonprofit ethics watchdog”<sup>2</sup> this campaign focuses solely on blacklisting former federal government officials solely because they worked for the President of the United States. Accountable US and American Oversight are calling on American companies to “make it clear that [they] will not hire for employment, contract for consulting, or seat on [their] boards any senior level official from the Trump administration that has participated in undermining our democracy, endorsing violent extremism, or tearing families apart.”<sup>3</sup> These inaccurate partisan characterizations of complex policies ignore the intricacies of developing and enforcing laws to ensure American safety—a burden borne by every administration. Additionally, these mischaracterizations discriminate against individuals because they served an administration. They are trying to deny Americans the opportunity to earn livelihoods simply because they made the sacrifice to serve on behalf of the President.

Barring and banning public servants from reentering civil employment has no place in American political discourse. As President Biden said in his inaugural address, “[f]or without

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<sup>1</sup> *Campaign Against Corporate Complicity*, ACCOUNTABLE US & AMERICAN OVERSIGHT (last visited Jan. 27, 2021), <https://corporatecomplicity.org/>.

<sup>2</sup> *About*, AMERICAN OVERSIGHT (last visited Jan. 28, 2020), <https://www.americanoversight.org/about>.

<sup>3</sup> Letter from Accountable US & American Oversight to America’s CEOs (Jan. 26, 2021), [https://twitter.com/accountable\\_us](https://twitter.com/accountable_us).

unity, there is no peace, only bitterness and fury...unity is the path forward.”<sup>4</sup> The *Campaign Against Corporate Complicity* does just the opposite of what President Biden encouraged by treating allegedly political opponents as targets to be destroyed. In American Oversight’s campaign, these “political opponents” are public servants with a spectrum of backgrounds, experiences, and views—some are only “guilty” of being Republicans. To deny them future employment only further discourages quality candidates from serving in subsequent administrations.

To better understand the genesis and purpose behind the *Campaign Against Corporate Complicity*, please produce the following documents and information to the Committee no later than March 8, 2021:

1. All documents and communications between American Oversight and Accountable US relating to the creation of the *Campaign Against Corporate Complicity*;
2. All documents and communications relating to the internal process for selecting individuals targeted by the *Campaign Against Corporate Complicity*;
3. All documents and communications used as evidence of wrongdoing against the selected individuals qualifying them for the *Campaign Against Corporate Complicity*;
4. Any and all communications between American Oversight and the Biden-Harris Presidential Transition; and
5. Any and all communications between American Oversight and the Biden-Harris Administration.

Additionally, please make arrangements to schedule a briefing on this matter with Committee staff no later than March 1, 2021. To schedule the briefing or ask any follow-up or related questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074.

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<sup>4</sup> Remarks, White House, Inaugural Address by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (Jan. 20, 2021), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/01/20/inaugural-address-by-president-joseph-r-biden-jr/>.

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The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Cloud', is written over a horizontal line.

Michael Cloud  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Economic and  
Consumer Policy

cc: The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy