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12TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET

DEPUTY WHIP FOR POLICY

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March 17, 2025

Charles Ezell
Acting Director
Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street, NW Suite 6316
Washington, DC 20415

Dear Acting Director Ezell,

I am asking for clarification regarding the “employee productivity” emails that are being sent to federal employees.

As you know, on Saturday February 22nd, special government employee Elon Musk posted on ‘X’ that “Consistent with President Trump’s instructions, all federal employees will shortly receive an email requesting to understand what they got done last week.” This post led to confusion and uncertainty for millions of federal employees and left many questioning its legitimacy.

The assumption that providing these bullet points to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will help with government efficiency is not only unfounded but is insulting to federal employees and a potential security risk. Federal employees in all agencies have a system in which they report the work they conduct and have a specific chain-of-command that they report to. Sending these emails to OPM is inefficient for workers and burdensome to review on a weekly basis.

Forcing this requirement on federal workers is insulting to the important work they do every day on behalf of the public. The lack of clarity and opaque purpose of this request has created a culture of fear and uncertainty across our federal workforce. NPR recently reported that employees at the Department of Veterans Affairs, “liken the email campaign to psychological warfare: a blitz attack, with each email hitting like a flash-bang grenade aimed at discombobulating the federal workforce.”¹ In addition to being an inefficient measure of an employee’s work product, this requirement also reflects the lack of care and attention to detail for which DOGE and Mr. Musk are now known: asking what each federal employee has done in a given week puts at risk classified information and threatens our national security. The Washington Post reported, “officials at the military’s Cyber Command said there is considerable risk that the aggregation of unclassified and seemingly innocuous material could be analyzed by adversaries and matched with other information, yielding secretive details.”² Employees at several agencies handling sensitive information have been told not to comply with this directive.

Given the lack of care and thought that went into this request by Mr. Musk, on behalf of the Trump Administration, I have serious concerns that OPM does not have proper and sufficient measures in place to protect the sensitive information it receives through this new productivity initiative.

1. <https://www.npr.org/2025/03/07/nx-s1-5317722/elon-musk-emails-trump-veterans-mental-health>

2. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/03/07/doge-emails-cyber-command-intel/>

I would appreciate your response to the following questions regarding the “employee productivity” emails:

1. How many federal employees have responded to this request?
2. Can you clarify which agencies have required federal employees to submit these weekly reports?
3. Does DOGE receive responses from the federal employees as well as OPM? Who at OPM and/or DOGE has access to the information received? Does anyone outside the federal government have access to this information?
4. How are employee responses being used and are they being evaluated by any open and transparent metric?
5. Are you employing an artificial intelligence program to review responses? If so, which AI program(s)?
6. What measures are you taking to ensure the information provided to you is protected and secure?
7. How long does OPM intend to continue this new process?

I request a response answering these questions by Monday March 24th, 2025, at 11:59PM. I appreciate your time and participation in this concerning matter.

Sincerely,



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress