

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 7, 2025

Chris Rocheleau
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Acting Administrator Rocheleau,

We write to express our concern regarding recent reports that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is facing undue pressure to consider cancelling its existing, long-term communications system modernization contract in violation of fair and proper procurement processes.¹

In 2023, Verizon was awarded a fifteen-year \$2.4 billion contract (known as the FAA Enterprise Network Services or “FENS” Program) to, among other things, “provide required system resources to support FAA-defined telecommunications and information management service needs...within FAA facilities and required field locations.”² While we understand if FAA may have concerns with certain aspects of the current contract’s implementation, reports that the agency was considering terminating the Verizon contract for a new venture with Starlink without the appropriate safety or legal reviews are deeply troubling.

Though many of us have been vocal about the need for the federal government to modernize the software and IT systems that are instrumental to managing the National Airspace System (NAS),³ we are concerned about how the conversation surrounding this particular effort has unfolded over the past week. It is vital that the American taxpayer has confidence in the inherent fairness and efficiency of the FAA’s procurement processes. Although Starlink is now denying any effort to take over the FENS contract,⁴ recent reporting has led Members of Congress and the general public to question whether Mr. Musk’s current role in the Trump Administration is unfairly influencing the FAA’s modernization efforts. Moreover, there are further concerns that

¹ Chris Isidore, Musk’s Starlink gets FAA contract, raising new conflict of interest concerns, (Feb. 25, 2025) available at: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/25/business/musk-faa-starlink-contract/index.html>.

² Federal Aviation Administration, FAA Enterprise Network Services Program, (July 2023), available at: https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/technology/cinp/fens#:~:text=The%20FENS%20contract%20will%20provide%20required%20system,within%20FAA%20facilities%20and%20required%20field%20locations.

³ America Builds: Air Traffic Control System Infrastructure and Staffing: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Aviation, Comm. on Transp. & Infrastructure, 119 Cong. (2025).

⁴ David Shepardson, *Musk’s Starlink denies it wants to take over FAA US air traffic contract*, REUTERS, (March 5, 2025), available at: <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/faa-says-agency-needs-multiple-technologies-us-air-traffic-system-2025-03-05/>

his role is allowing his holdings to obtain insider and proprietary information in order to gain a competitive advantage.⁵

The FAA must abide by all applicable federal acquisition and conflict of interest laws when deciding to amend or cancel current contracts or enter into any future contracts, regardless of the parties involved. This includes companies owned by Mr. Musk or any other senior government official. It is critical that the FAA follow the law impartially and be transparent in what information is guiding its decisions and how sensitive information is being protected during the procurement process.

Considering Mr. Musk's role as a "special government employee" for the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), we request answers to the following questions:

1. Is the DOT or FAA planning to cancel the Verizon FENS contract?
2. Is the DOT or FAA planning to award a new FENS contract to Starlink?
3. If any changes to the FENS contract are being considered, has the Competition and Contracting Act been followed in this process? If so, are any exemptions being considered? If urgency is being considered as a reason for an exemption, what is the reason given for such urgency?
4. Are any DOGE employees currently supporting or consulting with the FAA regarding FENS or other similar initiatives? If so, in what capacity?
5. Are there any employees of a company owned or run by Mr. Musk that are currently supporting or consulting with the FAA regarding FENS or similar initiatives? If so, in what capacity?
6. Is your agency aware of Mr. Musk, or a DOGE or SpaceX employee, accessing any Source Selection Sensitive, Proprietary, or any other financial data within the FAA?
7. Has Mr. Musk or any DOGE employee notified your agency of any potential personal, professional or organizational conflict of interest?
8. What due diligence has your agency conducted to determine whether any conflicts of interest exist or could reasonably be assumed to exist with any of Mr. Musk's companies and his work with the government, specifically for DOGE?

⁵ Sam Ogozalek & Oriana Pawlyk, Duffy suggests Musk's Starlink could complement existing FAA contract, POLITICO PRO, (March 4, 2025), available at: <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/03/duffy-suggests-musks-starlink-could-complement-existing-faa-contracts-00211108>

9. Has your agency enacted any mitigation measures to ensure that Mr. Musk's leadership of companies involved in contracts with your agency does not cause a conflict of interest or undue pressure on regulators?
10. Has your agency enacted any mitigation measures to ensure that Mr. Musk or employees of his companies do not illegally obtain access to a competitor's proprietary information held by the FAA?
11. Has your agency issued any waivers related to conflicts of interest involving Mr. Musk's companies?
12. Have any employees of a company owned or run by Mr. Musk been given FAA logins and credentials? If so, please provide the number of employees from each of the companies and for what purposes these credentials were obtained.

It is vital to the American people that our federal contracts are implemented with the necessary oversight and sufficient transparency to give the taxpayers confidence that the law is being followed, and the competitive environment is being preserved for everyone.

We request written responses to the following questions and requests for information as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, March 14, 2025. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure



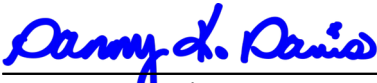
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Aviation



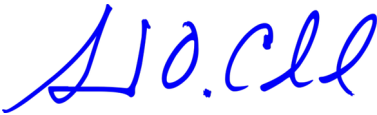
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



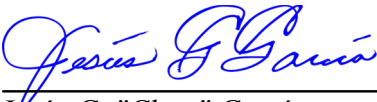
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



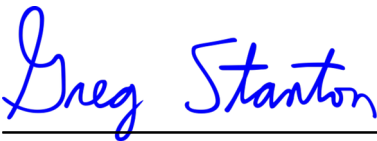
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



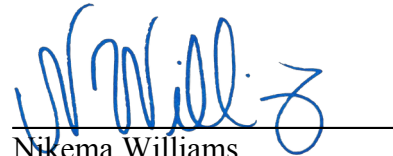
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



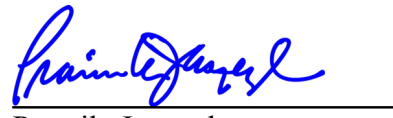
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



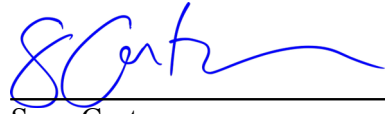
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



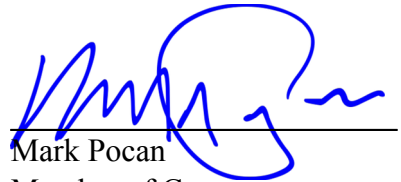
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



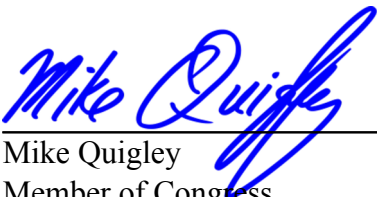
Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Ed Case
Member of Congress



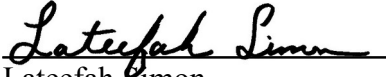
Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress




Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



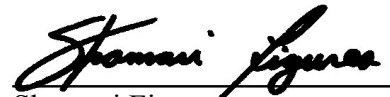
Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



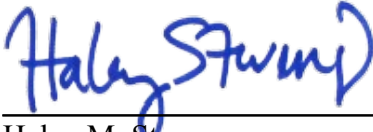
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



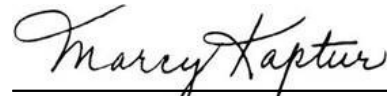
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



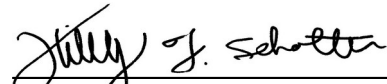
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress