

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

August 23, 2016

The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On March 10, 2016, the Committee requested documents and communications relating to “informal waivers” that you and other senior officials at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) were granted to permit you to continue accessing personal email accounts on DHS equipment.¹ After more than five months, DHS has failed to comply with the Committee’s request, failed to assert a legitimate justification for withholding any information from the Committee, or even to provide a timeline for responding.

Moreover, on June 16, 2016, it was announced that DHS had released 693 pages of records regarding the informal waiver process.² Given the release of these materials, there is no justifiable reason for the Department’s failure to provide the requested documents. Please provide the documents and communications requested in the March 10, 2016, letter as soon as possible, but not later than September 6, 2016. Otherwise, the Committee may use compulsory process to obtain the documents and communications we have requested.

Please contact Jeffrey Post of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074 with any questions about this request. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jason Chaffetz
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member

¹ Letter from Jason Chaffetz, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov’t Reform, to Jeh Johnson, Sec’y, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Security. (Mar. 10, 2016).

² Charles Clark, *Top Homeland Security Officials Under Fire for Personal Email Use*, GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE, June 20, 2016, govexec.com/management/2016/06/top-homeland-security-officials-under-fire-personal-email-use/129243/.