

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

April 20, 2022

Mr. Parag Agrawal
Chief Executive Officer
Twitter
1355 Market St #900
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Agrawal:

We write to request that you preserve all documents and communications in Twitter’s custody referring or relating to the October 2020 *New York Post* article about Hunter Biden’s laptop,¹ which Twitter initially prevented from being posted or shared on its platform.² This suppression of information on Twitter occurred during a critical time in the vetting process of presidential candidates and may have influenced the electoral process. The American people have a right to know the policies and decisionmakers responsible for suppressing certain views and information on Twitter.

In recent weeks certain media outlets have reversed course on the legitimacy of the laptop at the center of the *New York Post*’s censorship, reporting on some of the suspect business dealings of the President’s son, Hunter Biden.³ Over the years, Hunter Biden has engaged in all manner of international business, from consulting for a Ukrainian energy company⁴ to assisting the Chinese in gaining access to cobalt mines in Africa—often to the detriment of U.S. interests.⁵ The *Washington Post* revealed a “Chinese energy conglomerate and its executives paid \$4.8 million to entities controlled by Hunter Biden and his uncle” according to emails from Hunter Biden’s laptop, court filings, and other government documents.⁶ Most recently Hunter Biden has

¹ Emma-Jo Morris and Gabrielle Fonrouge, *Smoking-gun email reveals how Hunter Biden introduced Ukrainian businessman to VP dad*, N.Y. POST (Oct. 14, 2020).

² Kate Conger and Mike Isaac, *In Reversal, Twitter Is No Longer Blocking New York Post Article*, N.Y. TIMES (Oct. 16, 2020).

³ See, e.g., The Washington Post Editorial Board, *The Hunter Biden story is an opportunity for a reckoning*, WASH. POST (Apr. 3, 2022).

⁴ See generally, “Hunter Biden, Burisma, and Corruption: The Impact on U.S. Government Policy and Related Concerns,” Maj. Staff Report, S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. & Gov. Affairs and S. Comm. on Finance (2020).

⁵ See, e.g., Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform to Hon. David Ferriero, Archivist, Nat’l Archives and Records Admin. (Jan. 19, 2022).

⁶ Matt Viser, Tom Hamburger and Craig Timberg, *Inside Hunter Biden’s multimillion-dollar deals with a Chinese energy company*, WASH. POST (Mar. 20, 2022).

made a fortune selling his artwork to anonymous and likely foreign purchasers.⁷ Media reports indicate Hunter Biden paid various bills for his father, including thousands of dollars for the then-Vice President's home in Delaware.⁸ If true, the sources of Hunter Biden's income could exercise undue influence on national security and other U.S. policy positions.

We request all types of documents and communications to, from, between, and among Twitter and Twitter employees related to the October 2020 *New York Post* article on Hunter Biden's laptop be preserved. So a full and complete record of those documents can be produced to the Committee in response to future document requests, please:

1. Preserve all e-mail, electronic documents, and data ("electronic records") created since January 1, 2020 related to the October 2020 *New York Post* article on Hunter Biden's laptop. For the purposes of this request, "preserve" means taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, or mutation of electronic records as well as negligent or intentional handling in a manner that would make such records incomplete or inaccessible;
2. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify former employees and contractors, including subcontractors and consultants who may have access to such electronic records in an effort to ensure these records are to be preserved; and,
3. If it is the routine practice of any employee or contractor to destroy or otherwise alter such documents or electronic records, either halt such practices or arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates or copies of such records, suitable for production if requested.

These documents are critical to understanding whether Twitter and other Big Tech companies purposefully took actions to give then-candidate Biden an electoral edge in 2020. Likewise, the Committee must evaluate whether President Biden is vulnerable to improper influence from foreign nations.

The House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol (the January 6th Committee) has demonstrated the First Amendment is not a shield to congressional investigations.⁹ It has been widely reported that the January 6th Committee has

⁷ See, e.g., Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, and H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform Republicans to Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Chair, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (Nov. 7, 2021).

⁸ Jon Levine, *Hunter Biden frequently covered family expenses, texts reveal*, N.Y. POST (Apr. 9, 2022).

⁹ Zoë Richards, *"Stop the Steal" organizer says he's cooperating with Justice Dept. probe*, NBC NEWS, Apr. 8, 2022 (reporting that "Stop the Steal" organizer, Ali Alexander, provided documents and was deposed by the January 6th Committee); see also Press Release, *Select Committee Demands Information From Witnesses Who Promoted*

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interviewed many individuals involved in the “Stop the Steal” political fundraising movement, a movement covered by First Amendment protections. According to the *Washington Post* “the [January 6th] committee recently asked questions of Gary Coby, the Trump campaign’s top digital fundraising guru, and has interviewed both campaign and RNC staff[,]...Brad Parscale, the former Trump campaign manager[,]...[and] people who worked for him.”¹⁰

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. Please respond in writing no later than May 4, 2022 to confirm receipt of this letter and to advise the Committee of the actions you will take to comply with this document preservation request. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight & Reform

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight & Reform

Unsupported Claims of Election Fraud, available at <https://january6th.house.gov/news/press-releases/select-committee-demands-information-witnesses-who-promoted-unsupported-claims> (Mar. 1, 2022).

¹⁰ Josh Dawsey, Jacqueline Alemany, & Tom Hamburger, *Inside the Jan. 6 Committee’s Efforts to Trace Everyone Dollar Raised & Spent Based on Trump’s False Election Claims*, WASH. POST (Mar. 8, 2022).