

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 15, 2022

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Wray:

We write to conduct oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) use of government aircraft and compliance with the applicable federal regulations and requirements. In light of a recent report by the *New York Post* that you left a Senate hearing early to fly on an FBI aircraft for a personal vacation, we have questions about whether you are properly reimbursing federal taxpayers for your personal travel aboard government aircraft.

According to the *Post*, on August 4, 2022, you abruptly departed a Senate Judiciary Committee oversight hearing to engage in personal travel to your vacation home in Saranac Lake, New York.<sup>1</sup> Despite requests from Ranking Member Grassley, you refused to remain at the hearing for an additional 21 minutes for remaining members to finish asking their questions and conduct oversight of the FBI. You reportedly departed on the FBI's Gulfstream 550 jet, an agency aircraft initially intended for counterterrorism use, to make the one hour and 12-minute journey to Saranac Lake.<sup>2</sup> Further, it has been reported that you made a similar personal trip on a government aircraft on June 2 and June 5, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

Although certain federal officials are permitted to use government aircraft for personal or political use, these expenses must be reimbursed.<sup>4</sup> According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), past FBI directors have used government aircraft for personal use as is permissible.<sup>5</sup> These former officials reimbursed federal taxpayers at the commercial rate, which can be thousands of dollars less than the actual cost of operating the government aircraft. Reimbursement payments for personal travel are made to the FBI Finance Division, which in turn deposits the funds to the Department of the Treasury.<sup>6</sup>

To assist us in conducting oversight of your use of government aircraft for personal travel, your reimbursements of funds to federal taxpayers, and your compliance with applicable federal regulations, please produce the following documents and information for the period August 2, 2017, to the present:

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<sup>1</sup> Miranda Devine, *FBI Director Christopher Wray is guiding the agency the wrong way, fast*, NY POST (Aug. 7, 2022), available at [https://nypost.com/2022/08/07/fbi-director-christopher-wray-is-guiding-the-agency-the-wrong-way-fast/?utm\\_campaign=iphone\\_nyp&utm\\_source=twitter\\_app](https://nypost.com/2022/08/07/fbi-director-christopher-wray-is-guiding-the-agency-the-wrong-way-fast/?utm_campaign=iphone_nyp&utm_source=twitter_app).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> OMB Circular No. A-126, *Improving the Management and Use of Government Aircraft* (revised May 22, 1992), at 4, available at [https://www.gsa.gov/cdnstatic/OMB\\_Circular\\_A-126.pdf](https://www.gsa.gov/cdnstatic/OMB_Circular_A-126.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Gov't Accounting Office, *Dep't of Justice: Executives' Use of Aircraft for Nonmission Purposes* (Feb. 2013) (GAO/13-235), available at <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-13-235.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 16.

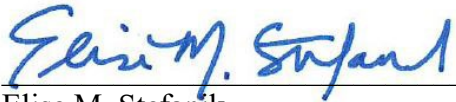
1. All documents and communications referring or relating to your travel on government aircraft, including the dates of travel, the aircraft used, the purpose of the flights, and the names of all passengers on the flights.
2. A full accounting of the cost to taxpayers of your use of government aircraft for personal travel.
3. All documents and communications referring or relating to any reimbursement for your personal or any political travel.
4. Any documents and communications referring or relating to internal FBI policies, practices, or regulations regarding personal or political travel on government aircraft.

We request that you produce these documents as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 29, 2022.

To make arrangements to deliver documents or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican Staff at (202) 225-5074. 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,



Elise M. Stefanik  
Chairwoman  
House Republican Conference



James Comer  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Michael R. Turner  
Ranking Member  
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman  
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Adam Schiff, Chairman  
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence