

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 2, 2022

Honorable Gina McCarthy  
White House National Climate Advisor  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

We are continuing oversight of the Biden Administration's attempts to suppress free speech, censor political opponents, and discredit reasonable commentary by labeling dissenting voices as "misinformation."<sup>1</sup> In a June 9, 2022, interview, you said the Biden Administration "need[s] the tech companies to really jump in" and "stop allowing specific individuals over and over again to spread disinformation" regarding climate issues.<sup>2</sup> This appears to be an effort to silence those who criticize the Administration's unpopular Green New Deal style policies that are raising the cost of energy for all Americans.<sup>3</sup> Your call to censor those who disagree with the Biden Administration is troubling, particularly given recent plans at the Department of Homeland Security to form a Disinformation Governance Board.<sup>4</sup> Committee Republicans request documents and other information regarding the use of your government office to pressure Big Tech companies to censor individuals who disagree with you.

President Biden's decision to cancel the Keystone Pipeline, attack domestic oil and gas producers, and enact other progressive Green New Deal style initiatives have led to disastrous and unpopular consequences for the American people. Instead of taking responsibility for these failed policies, the Biden Administration is blaming private companies for surging gas prices, soaring inflation, and skyrocketing utility costs.<sup>5</sup> Now, the Administration's climate team is

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, et al, to Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Security (Apr. 29, 2022).

<sup>2</sup> Ben Geman, *Top Biden aide prods big tech to crack down on climate change disinformation*, AXIOS (Jun. 9, 2022).

<sup>3</sup> Susan Page, *Biden approval rating at 39% amid economic fears; 47% 'strongly disapprove': USA TODAY/Suffolk poll*, USA TODAY (June 17, 2022); Megan Henney, *Biden administration stoking higher energy prices with oil and gas crackdown, JES analysis shows*, FOX BUSINESS (Feb. 2, 2022).

<sup>4</sup> Nomaan Merchant, *New 'Disinformation' Board Paused Amid Free Speech Questions*, AP (May 18, 2022).

<sup>5</sup> Tom Norton, *Fact Check: Is Joe Biden's 'Putin Price Hike' Inflation Claim Accurate?*, NEWSWEEK (Jun. 14, 2022).

deflecting and discrediting legitimate criticism and disagreement over its failed policies by blaming disinformation on social media. This attack on free speech is troubling.

Instead of working for the American people on solutions to bring prices down, such as streamlining the permitting process, the Administration itself promotes disinformation by blaming high gas prices on the conflict in Ukraine, even though prices were rising under President Biden's failed leadership long before Russia's invasion.<sup>6</sup> In fact, high energy prices are a direct result of the Administration's war on domestic energy production. President Biden himself once celebrated high gas prices as part of an "incredible transition" but is now blaming American companies for the failures of the Administration's unrealistic energy policy.<sup>7</sup>

Despite implementing policies that discourage domestic oil and gas companies from increasing production, the Administration is now demanding those same companies produce more.<sup>8</sup> Chevron CEO Michael Wirth recently wrote in an open letter that the Biden Administration "has largely sought to criticize, and at times vilify, our industry."<sup>9</sup> President Biden has refused to even meet with oil and gas companies choosing instead to ask Saudi Arabia for oil and gas.<sup>10</sup> The refusal to work with American companies to help alleviate the heavy burden of sky-high gas prices, while simultaneously accusing them and others of spreading disinformation, raises serious concerns about the Biden Administration's ability to lower energy costs.

To assist Republicans on the Committee on Oversight and Reform in conducting oversight of collusion, to censor debate on climate issues, between top Biden Administration officials and Big Tech companies, please provide the following documents and information, no later than August 16, 2022:

1. All documents and communications, from January 20, 2021 to present, between and among White House employees regarding the censorship of climate-related information on social media;
2. All documents and communications, from January 20, 2021 to present, between White House employees and employees, representatives, or agents of Twitter, Meta, and/or TikTok regarding the censorship of climate-related information on social media;

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

<sup>7</sup> Callie Patteson, *Biden praises high gas prices as part of 'incredible transition,'* NEW YORK POST (May 23, 2022) ("[W]hen it comes to the gas prices, we're going through an incredible transition that is taking place that, God willing, when it's over, we'll be stronger and the world will be stronger and less reliant on fossil fuels when this is over.").

<sup>8</sup> David Blackmon, *Conflicting Messages From Democrats Leave Oil CEOs Wondering Which Way To Jump,* Forbes (Oct. 29, 2021).

<sup>9</sup> Nandita Bose, *Deep rift lies behind Biden's criticism of oil and gas industry,* Reuters (June 22, 2022).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

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3. All documents and communications, from January 20, 2021 to present, between White House employees and any third party regarding the censorship of climate-related information on social media.

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.

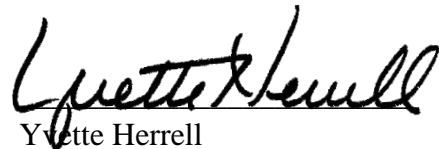
Sincerely,



James Comer

Ranking Member

Committee on Oversight and Reform



Yvette Herrell

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Environment

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

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Environment