

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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December 6, 2022

James Baker
Deputy General Counsel
Twitter, Inc.
1335 Market St #900
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Baker:

Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans are investigating President Biden's involvement in his family's foreign business practices and international influence peddling schemes. You serve as Twitter's Deputy General Counsel and have been identified as a figure central to suppressing information regarding President Biden and his family prior to an American election. Therefore, Committee Republicans request your attendance at a public Committee hearing during the 118th Congress to assess Big Tech's control of free discourse and information sharing.

On October 14, 2020—the day the laptop story was published—Twitter took steps to severely limit users' ability to share reporting by the *New York Post* that challenged Joe Biden's assertion he had never participated in his family's history of using his public office for financial gain.¹ According to new information released by Twitter, you played a key advisory role in the decision to censor the story—while “the Biden team” directed Twitter to remove stories in the days leading up to the 2020 election.²

Twitter's decision was made without knowledge or approval of Twitter's then-CEO Jack Dorsey and when another leader of the platform's censorship team—Yoel Roth—believed the *New York Post*'s Hunter Biden laptop story “didn't reach a place where I was comfortable removing [the] content from Twitter.”³ You wrote in an email—after Twitter censored the laptop story—that “we need more facts to assess whether the materials were hacked”; you advised that the story should remain censored, nonetheless.⁴

¹ Kari Paul, *Facebook and Twitter restrict controversial New York Post story on Joe Biden*, THE GUARDIAN (Oct. 14, 2020).

² Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi), TWITTER (Dec. 2, 2022, 7:19 PM).

³ *Panel Discussion with Yoel Roth, Kara Swisher*, KNIGHT FOUNDATION (Nov. 29, 2022).

⁴ Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi), TWITTER (Dec. 2, 2022, 7:28 PM).

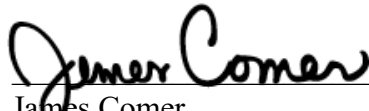
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Twitter CEO Elon Musk recently claimed that Twitter “has interfered in elections.”⁵ The American people deserve to know why Twitter took down the Hunter Biden laptop story even when your colleagues were questioning the rationale for suppression the story. Your testimony will provide the Committee critical context regarding the Twitter censorship team’s decision to prohibit users from sharing information about a presidential candidate.

To assist the Committee in conducting this important investigation, we request that you appear before the Committee at a full committee hearing during the 118th Congress.

To make arrangements for the hearing, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight & Reform

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

⁵ Chris Pandolfo, *Elon Musk says Twitter ‘has interfered in elections,’* FOX BUSINESS (Nov. 30, 2022).