

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
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<https://oversight.house.gov>

December 6, 2022

Yoel Roth
Former Global Head of Trust & Safety of Twitter
Transmitted Electronically

Dear Mr. Roth:

Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans are investigating President Biden's involvement in his family's foreign business practices and international influence peddling schemes. Until recently, you served as Twitter's Global Head of Trust & Safety and were responsible for the platform's election security and misinformation policies. You 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 You have stated the *New York Post*'s Hunter Biden laptop story “didn't reach a place where I was comfortable removing [the] content from Twitter.”² Yet, Twitter suppressed the story and suspended the *Post*'s Twitter account. Media outlets including the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* now acknowledge that the information on Hunter Biden's laptop is authentic.³

According to new information released by Twitter, you and other platform censors were directed by “the Biden team” and the Democratic National Committee to remove stories in the days leading up to the 2020 election.⁴ Additionally, decisions to suppress stories and accounts were made without knowledge or approval of Twitter's then-CEO Jack Dorsey.⁵

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

² Panel Discussion with Yoel Roth, Kara Swisher, KNIGHT FOUNDATION (Nov. 29, 2022).

³ Bruce Golding, *Washington Post joins New York Times in finally admitting emails from Hunter Biden laptop are real*, N.Y. POST (Mar. 30, 2022).

⁴ Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi), TWITTER (Dec. 2, 2022, 7:19 PM).

⁵ *Id.*

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Twitter CEO Elon Musk recently claimed that Twitter “has interfered in elections.”⁶ The American people deserve to know why Twitter took down the Hunter Biden laptop story even when you questioned the rationale for suppressing 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,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight & Reform

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

⁶ Chris Pandolfo, *Elon Musk says Twitter 'has interfered in elections,'* FOX BUSINESS (Nov. 30, 2022).