

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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November 18, 2025

The Honorable Gordon C. Rhea
U.S. Virgin Islands Attorney General
U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General
3438 Krondprindsens Gade
GERS Building, 2nd Floor
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

Dear Attorney General Rhea,

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Committee) is reviewing the possible mismanagement of the federal government's investigation of Mr. Jeffrey Epstein and Ms. Ghislaine Maxwell, the circumstances and subsequent investigations of Mr. Epstein's death, the operation of sex-trafficking rings and potential legislative solutions for the federal government to effectively combat them, and potential violations of ethics rules related to elected officials.

Mr. Epstein owned Little St. James and Great St. James, two private islands located near St. Thomas and part of the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI).¹ Mr. Epstein also maintained business entities in the USVI throughout his life, including the entity known as the Financial Trust Company, which received hundreds of millions of dollars in tax incentives between 1999 and 2012.² Mr. Epstein also maintained ties to high-level officials in the USVI.³ He employed the wife of the USVI governor,⁴ an architecture firm owned by the governor's uncle,⁵ and "donated money, sponsored scholarships, and [] gave dozens of computers to a local lawmaker to distribute."⁶ News reporting indicates that court filings describe that Mr. Epstein also "allegedly paid law enforcement entities such as the Virgin Islands Police Department."⁷

Additionally, Mr. Epstein remained in communication with USVI Governor Kenneth E. Mapp and USVI Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives Stacey Plaskett. In documents published by the Committee's majority staff on November 12, 2025, the documents show Mr.

¹ Matthew Goldstein, *Billionaire Investor Buys Epstein's Private Islands for \$60 Million*, THE N.Y. TIMES (May 3, 2023).

² Jonathan Stempel, *Jeffrey Epstein got \$300 million tax breaks, paid US Virgin Islands police, JPMorgan says*, REUTERS (June 21, 2023).

³ *See Id.*

⁴ Steve Eder, *Epstein's Island, 'Little St. Jeff's': A Hideaway Where Money Bought Influence*, THE N.Y. TIMES (Aug. 28, 2019).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Supra*, n.2.

Epstein emailed Governor Mapp's official account in November 2016.⁸ Documents also show Mr. Epstein engaging in a text conversation with Delegate Plaskett during a congressional hearing in February 2019.⁹ The above business and financial transactions coupled with new documents displaying correspondence between Mr. Epstein and elected officials further demonstrate to the Committee the interconnectedness between the USVI and Mr. Epstein.

The USVI Department of Justice and its Office of the Attorney General are in custody and control of documents that will further the Committee's investigation and potential legislative solutions. In 2020, USVI Attorney General Denise N. George filed a law enforcement action "under the anti-criminal enterprise, sex trafficking, child exploitation and fraud laws of the Virgin Islands" against Jeffrey Epstein's estate and "ten Epstein-created entities."¹⁰ A settlement was reached in December 2022, resolving this action by requiring "the defendants [to] pay the Government of the Virgin Islands \$105 million in cash plus one half of the proceeds from the sale of Little St. James."¹¹

After a settlement was reached with Jeffrey Epstein's estate, a separate lawsuit was filed by your office against JPMorgan Chase (JPMorgan), alleging that "JPMorgan facilitated Jeffrey Epstein's sex-trafficking venture not only by banking Epstein and allowing him to withdraw some \$1.75 million in cash for payment to his victims, but also by banking the victims themselves."¹² Before the case went to trial, a settlement was reached under which JPMorgan paid \$75 million to the USVI.¹³ The Committee believes that the documents related to Mr. Epstein, his estate, and the USVI litigation will aid its ongoing investigation into Mr. Epstein, Ms. Maxwell, and the federal government's investigation into both individuals.

To assist the Committee's oversight of this matter, we request all documents and information, in unredacted form, relating to the items listed below, covering the time period January 1, 1998, to the present unless otherwise indicated, as soon as possible but no later than December 2, 2025:

1. *In re the Estate of Jeffrey E. Epstein* (No. ST-19-PB-80);
2. *Government of the United States Virgin Islands v. Estate of Jeffrey E. Epstein, et al* (No. ST-20-CV-14);
3. *Government of the United States Virgin Islands v. JP Morgan Chase Bank* (No. 22-CV-10904); and

⁸ Press Release, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, Oversight Committee Releases Additional Epstein Estate Documents, at BATES 026420 (Nov. 12, 2025).

⁹ *Id.* at BATES 025428 to 025435 (Nov. 12, 2025); See also Amy B. Wang *et al.*, *Epstein texted with House Democrat during Cohen hearing, documents show*, THE WASH. POST (Nov. 14, 2025).

¹⁰ Press Release, United States Virgin Islands Department of Justice, U.S. Virgin Islands Attorney General Settles Sex Trafficking Case Against Estate Of Jeffrey Epstein And Co-Defendants For Over \$105 Million (Dec. 1, 2022).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Felix Salmon, *JPMorgan vs. U.S. Virgin Islands: A rather unsettled settlement*, AXIOS (Sept. 30, 2023).

¹³ *Id.*

4. All documents and communications relating or referring to any federal or local criminal investigation or potential criminal investigation of Jeffrey Epstein or Ghislaine Maxwell.

It is imperative that Congress conduct oversight of the federal government's enforcement of sex trafficking laws generally and, specifically, its handling of the investigation and prosecution of Mr. Epstein and Ms. Maxwell. The Committee may use the results of this investigation to inform legislative solutions to improve federal efforts to combat sex trafficking and reform the use of non-prosecution agreements and/or plea agreements in sex-crime investigations. Additionally, the Committee is assessing possible legislation aimed at bolstering or otherwise amending laws aimed at ethics disclosures for elected officials.

The Committee on Oversight and Government 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.¹⁴ If you have any questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Majority staff at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Comer" clearly distinguishable.

James Comer

Chairman

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

cc: The Honorable Robert Garcia, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

¹⁴ Rule X, cl. 4(c)(2), Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, 119th Cong. (Jan. 16, 2025).