

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 10, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20500

Senator John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate SD-511
Washington, DC 20510

Dear President Trump and Majority Leader Thune:

We write with serious concern about your refusal to nominate and confirm Democratic commissioners and board members to vacancies at a wide range of agencies specifically designed to have bipartisan membership. Your refusal follows President Trump's summarily firing numerous commissioners and board members last year without cause, raising concerns about the seriousness with which you are taking the Senate's constitutional role in providing advice and consent. As Ranking Members of Committees in the Senate responsible for overseeing independent agencies, we are concerned about the White House's lack of serious engagement with Senate Democrats to identify strong candidates to fill open positions. Rather than open meaningful discussions, the White House has shown no indication that it intends to nominate Democrats to critical roles across government.

President Trump has spent more than a year purging independent agencies of anyone who might dissent from his directives. Within months of taking office, in an unprecedented sweep, he purported to fire more than a dozen Democratic commissioners and board members across numerous federal agencies, including the Federal Election Commission (FEC),¹ the Federal Trade Commission (FTC),² the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC),³ the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB),⁴ the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB),⁵ the

¹ The Hill, "Trump removes Democratic FEC commissioner 'effective immediately'," Ashleigh Fields, February 6, 2025, <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5132004-trump-removes-democratic-fec-commissioner-effective-immediately/>.

² Economic Policy Institute, "Firing FTC Commissioners," September 22, 2025, <https://www.epi.org/policywatch/firing-ftc-commissioners/>.

³ NPR, "Trump fires all 3 Democrats on the Consumer Product Safety," Jaclyn Diaz, May 9, 2025, Commission," <https://www.npr.org/2025/05/09/nx-s1-5393374/trump-consumer-product-safety-commission-cpsc-firing>.

⁴ The Hill, "Trump fires all 3 Democrats on privacy oversight board," Rebecca Beitsch, January 27, 2025, <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5109672-trump-fires-all-three-democrats-on-privacy-oversight-board/>.

⁵ Government Executive, "Appeals court upholds firing of Democratic Merit Systems Protection Board member," Sean Michael Newhouse, December 5, 2025, <https://www.govexec.com/management/2025/12/appeals-court-upholds-firing-democratic-merit-systems-protection-board-member/409980/>.

National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB),⁶ the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC),⁷ the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB),⁸ the Surface Transportation Board (STB),⁹ the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA),¹⁰ and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).¹¹ Far from reconsidering these decisions, the Trump Administration has continued to litigate against commissioners or board members who have challenged their removal.

President Trump has also failed to fill positions at numerous other agencies that are statutorily structured to be led by bipartisan commissions. This includes, for example, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM), the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service. Many of these agencies no longer have even a single Democratic Member.

Congress designed these boards and commissions to be bipartisan and gave them the authority to regulate some of the most vital and significant parts of American life. But the Trump Administration appears intent on ensuring that it retains complete control over these agencies, with little interest in working in good faith with Congress. In a sharp break from precedent across Republican and Democratic administrations, you have refused in almost every instance to engage with Senate Democratic leadership in the normal process of identifying Democratic nominees to fill vacancies on independent agencies. Instead, the White House appears set on leaving the vast majority of these critical positions open indefinitely. We ask that you immediately reverse this stance, reinstate improperly terminated commissioners and board members, and publicly commit to working with the Minority Leader to fill other Democratic vacancies with qualified Democratic nominees.

⁶ Reuters, “White House removes NTSB vice chair,” David Shepardson, May 6, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/white-house-removes-ntsb-vice-chair-sources-2025-05-06/>.

⁷ Politico, “Trump fires former Biden chair from Nuclear Regulatory Commission,” Josh Siegel and Kelsey Tamborrino, June 16, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/06/16/trump-fires-democratic-nuclear-commissioner-00407577>.

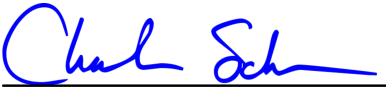
⁸ Government Executive, “Appeals court upholds firing of Democratic Merit Systems Protection Board member,” Sean Michael Newhouse, December 5, 2025, <https://www.govexec.com/management/2025/12/appeals-court-upholds-firing-democratic-merit-systems-protection-board-member/409980/>.

⁹ Associated Press, “Trump fires Democratic member of Surface Transportation Board ahead of huge rail merger decision,” Josh Funk, August 28, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/primus-stb-trump-surface-transportation-board-up-809f0e78d0e428cf9fd04c919b4ef950>.

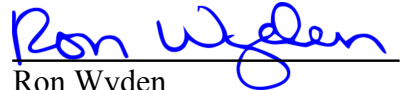
¹⁰ Banking Dive, “Trump fires NCUA board’s 2 Democrats,” Dan Ennis, April 17, 2025, <https://www.bankingdive.com/news/ncua-board-trump-fires-harper-otsuka-fed-powell-fdic/745672/>.

¹¹ New York Times, “Trump Fired E.E.O.C. Commissioners in Late-Night Purge,” Matthew Goldstein and Emily Steel, January 28, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/28/business/trump-eeoc-commissioners-fired.html>.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Finance



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Senate
Committee on the Judiciary



Jack Reed
Ranking Member, Committee
on Armed Services



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry



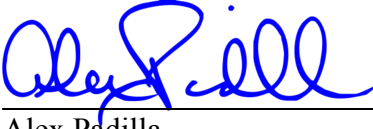
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Martin Heinrich
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Elizabeth Warren
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Alex Padilla
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