

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>

February 22, 2021

Mr. Kyle Herrig
President
Accountable US
1919 M Street NW, Suite 450
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Herrig,

We are writing to inquire about your recent joint campaign with American Oversight entitled *Campaign Against Corporate Complicity* which seeks to blacklist certain Americans from employment after their public service on behalf the federal government.¹ In a similar vein, Accountable US runs the *Hate for Hire* campaign which aims to shame the “architects of the family separation policy” out of future employment due to their involvement in the Trump Administration’s immigration policies.² Both of these campaigns perpetuate disgraceful discrimination and intend to unjustly punish former federal government employees for carrying out the policy of a duly elected president—tactics that have no place in America.

Though Accountable US claims to be a “nonpartisan watchdog group,” these two campaigns focus solely on blacklisting former federal government officials because they worked for the President of the United States. Accountable US and American Oversight are calling on American companies to “make it clear that [they] will not hire for employment, contract for consulting, or seat on [their] boards any senior level official from the Trump administration that has participated in undermining our democracy, endorsing violent extremism, or tearing families apart.”³ These inaccurate partisan characterizations of complex policies ignore the intricacies of developing and enforcing laws to ensure American safety—a burden borne by every administration. Additionally, these mischaracterizations discriminate against individuals because they served an administration. They are trying to deny Americans the opportunity to earn livelihoods simply because they made the sacrifice to serve on behalf of the President.

Barring and banning public servants from reentering civil employment has no place in American political discourse. As President Biden said in his inaugural address, “[f]or without

¹ *Campaign Against Corporate Complicity*, ACCOUNTABLE US & AMERICAN OVERSIGHT (last visited Jan. 27, 2021), <https://corporatecomplicity.org/>.

² *Hate for Hire*, ACCOUNTABLE US (last visited Jan. 27, 2021), <https://www.hateforhire.org/>.

³ Letter from Accountable US & American Oversight to America’s CEOs (Jan. 26, 2021), https://twitter.com/accountable_us.

unity, there is no peace, only bitterness and fury...unity is the path forward.”⁴ The *Campaign Against Corporate Complicity* and *Hate for Hire* do just the opposite of what President Biden encouraged by treating allegedly political opponents as targets to be destroyed. And in the case of Accountable US’ campaigns, these “political opponents” are public servants with a spectrum of backgrounds, experiences, and views – some are only “guilty” of being Republicans. To deny them future employment only further discourages quality candidates from serving in subsequent administrations.

To better understand the genesis and purpose behind the *Campaign Against Corporate Complicity* and the *Hate for Hire* campaigns, please produce the following documents and information to the Committee no later than March 8, 2021:

1. All documents and communications between Accountable US and American Oversight relating to the creation of the *Campaign Against Corporate Complicity*;
2. All documents and communications relating to the internal process for selecting individuals targeted by both the *Hate for Hire* list and the *Campaign Against Corporate Complicity*;
3. All documents and communications used as evidence of wrongdoing against the selected individual qualifying them for both the *Hate for Hire* list and the *Campaign Against Corporate Complicity*;
4. Any and all communications between Accountable US and the Biden-Harris Presidential Transition; and
5. Any and all communications between Accountable US and the Biden-Harris Administration.

Additionally, please make arrangements to schedule a briefing on this matter with Committee staff no later than March 1, 2021. To schedule the briefing or ask any follow-up or related questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074.

⁴ Remarks, White House, Inaugural Address by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (Jan. 20, 2021), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/01/20/inaugural-address-by-president-joseph-r-biden-jr/>.

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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, appearing to read 'Michael Cloud', written over a horizontal line.

Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy

cc: The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy