

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

April 21, 2022

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Young:

We are conducting oversight of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) role in ensuring that government contracts and loans are not inappropriately awarded to President Biden's political donors. Media reports indicate a pattern of businesses associated with donors receiving substantial amounts of taxpayer money.¹ To ensure that political donations are not unduly influencing the Administration's management of contracts and loans, we request documents and information about what, if any, safeguards and procedures are in place to protect taxpayers.

On September 22, 2021, Joe Kiani, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Masimo received an appointment to the influential President's Council on Science and Technology (PCAST).² Mr. Kiani is a prolific Democratic donor, contributing over \$1 million to the Biden Foundation in 2017, \$750,000 to the pro-Biden super PAC Unite the Country, and \$1 million to the Biden Inaugural Committee.³ In addition to receiving an appointment to PCAST, Mr. Kiani's company Masimo has received nearly \$3 million in federal government contracts since January 2021. Several agencies, including the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs have awarded contracts to Masimo.⁴ While Masimo has received government contracts in previous Administrations, Mr. Kiani's close ties to President Biden, including an appointment to a White House board creates the appearance that he is benefiting from his political contributions.

¹ Joseph Simonson & Matthew Foldi, *Biden Donor Awarded White House Post, Millions in Fed Contracts*, THE WASH. FREE BEACON (Mar. 23, 2022, 5:00 AM).

² Press Release, *Masimo CEO Joe Kiani Appointed to President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology*, BUSINESS WIRE (Sep. 22, 2021, 5:00 PM), available at <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20210922005983/en/Masimo-CEO-Joe-Kiani-Appointed-to-President%E2%80%99s-Council-of-Advisors-on-Science-and-Technology>.

³ Simonson, *supra* note 1; *Top Organizations Disclosing Donations to Unite the Country, 2020*, OPEN SECRETS, <https://www.opensecrets.org/outsidespending/contrib.php?cmte=C00701888&cycle=2020>.

⁴ *Masimo Corporation*, USASPENDING.GOV, <https://www.usaspending.gov/recipient/893be82e-7bae-8af5-488b-969c4ea8bc31-C/latest>.

Mr. Kiani is not the only political donor to receive taxpayer money from this Administration. On January 18, 2022, Oversight Committee Republicans sent a letter to the U.S. International Development Finance Institution (IDFC) requesting information about another top political donor who was heavily invested in a company that received the largest loan in the history of the IDFC.⁵ Lukas Walton, who owns 4.9 percent of First Solar, Inc.,⁶ contributed \$300,000 to President Biden's campaign in 2020 and \$100,000 to the Democratic National Committee. In December 2021, the company received a \$500 million loan from the IDFC.⁷ Awarding lucrative government contracts to companies led by large Democratic donors is becoming a troubling Biden Administration pattern and raises questions about whether political contributions play a role in the decision to award federal taxpayer dollars.

Given Mr. Kiani and Mr. Walton's history of political donations to Democrats, the government contracts and loans companies associated with them received raise questions as to whether the Administration is playing favorites with political donors. Since OMB is charged with ensuring the federal government "spends money wisely and eliminates waste and abuse of taxpayer dollars,"⁸ please provide the following documents and information, covering the time period January 20, 2021 to present, as soon as possible but no later than May 5, 2022.

1. All documents and communications between employees of OMB and employees of the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and/or the U.S. International Development Finance Institution referring or relating to Masimo or First Solar.
2. All documents and communications related to any meetings that occurred between Mr. Kiani, Mr. Walton, or their representatives and OMB.
3. All documents and communications between and among OMB and Masimo and/or First Solar.
4. All policies and procedures followed by OMB related to political donors receiving federal grants or contracts.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set

⁵ Letter from Ralph Norman, Ranking Member, Subcomm. On Env't, H. Comm. On Oversight & Reform, to Dev Jagadesan, Acting Chief Exec. Officer, US. Int'l Dev. Fin. Inst. (Jan. 18, 2022) (on file with H. Comm. On Oversight & Reform).

⁶ Paul Ausick, *Walmart Heir Sells 8.6 Millions Shares of First Solar Stock*, MSN (Sep. 17, 2020), available at <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/companies/walmart-heir-sells-86-millions-shares-of-first-solar-stock/ar-BB199ahR>.

⁷ Alana Goodman, *Biden Megadonor Scores \$500 Million Federal Loan for Solar Company*, THE WASH. FREE BEACON (Dec. 10, 2021).

⁸ *Office of Federal Procurement Policy*, THE WHITE HOUSE, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/management/office-federal-procurement-policy/>.

Shalanda Young

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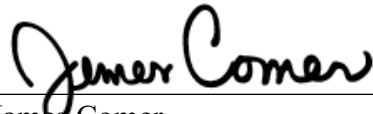
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forth in House Rule X. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Oversight Committee Republican Staff at 202-225-5074. Thank you for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



Ralph Norman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



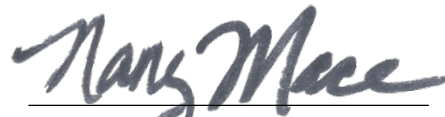
Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations



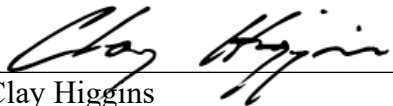
Glenn Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



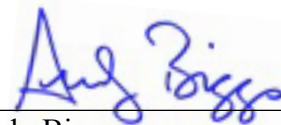
Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



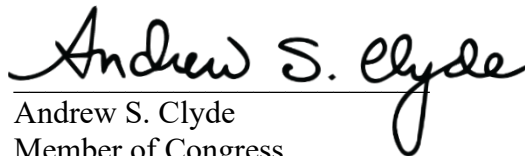
Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



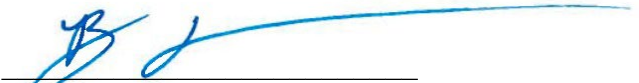
Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress



Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress

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cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

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

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties