

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 24, 2025

William B. Cowen  
Acting General Counsel  
National Labor Relations Board  
1015 Half Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20570

Dear Acting General Counsel Cowen:

We are writing regarding the recent whistleblower report filed by a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB or “the Board”) employee that makes several serious allegations of Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) officials accessing sensitive NLRB information. This account alleges that not only were DOGE officials granted access to this sensitive information, but also that DOGE officials extracted a high volume of information, intentionally removed any details about the information that was extracted, and left workers’ data exposed in the process. Accordingly, we request your responses to our questions posed below.

The whistleblower’s account includes a number of concerning details regarding DOGE officials’ access to sensitive NLRB information.<sup>1</sup> According to the report, DOGE personnel arrived at NLRB headquarters in early March and were then granted the highest level of access (“tenant owner level”) to the Board’s computer systems, permitting DOGE staffers to read, copy, and alter the Board’s data. These individuals were also granted access in a manner that prevented their activity from being tracked, which contradicts cybersecurity best practices from the National Institute of Standards and Technology.<sup>2</sup>

NLRB IT staff later discovered that DOGE engineers had extracted around 10 gigabytes of information from the Board’s NxGen case management system, which includes personal information about union members, employees voting to join a union, and witness testimony in ongoing cases before the Board, and also that the logs used to monitor outbound traffic from the system had been deleted. NLRB staff also discovered that someone had disabled controls in the case management system that would prevent insecure or unauthorized mobile devices from logging on without the proper security settings, as well as that an unknown user had exported contact information for outside lawyers who have worked with the NLRB.

The whistleblower’s account alleges that NLRB staff prepared a request for assistance from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to learn more about what data was extracted, but those efforts were later disrupted. The whistleblower also alleges that he was subjected to retaliation for this CISA request, including by receiving an envelope at his office that included a letter with threatening language, sensitive personal information and overhead pictures of him walking his dog.

These revelations from the whistleblower report are highly concerning for a number of reasons. If true, these revelations describe a reckless approach to the handling of sensitive personal

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2025/04/15/nx-s1-5355896/doge-nlr-elon-musk-spacex-security>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nist.gov/cyberframework>

information of workers, which could leave these workers exposed to retaliation for engaging in legally protected union activity. Additionally, given DOGE's desire to access sensitive information at other federal agencies with a focus on payment information, it is unclear why DOGE would be interested in NLRB data that has nothing to do with federal payments. Furthermore, Elon Musk, whom Donald Trump has repeatedly said is "in charge" of DOGE, has a number of cases before the Board and is also pursuing several lawsuits to challenge the constitutionality of the Board itself.

Accordingly, it is critical that you work to address these complaints as soon as possible, especially after it was reported that DOGE officials were again recently present at the NLRB headquarters.<sup>3</sup> We appreciate your statement that the Board will work with Congress and the Office of Special Counsel to resolve the complaints made in this report. Therefore, in addition to requesting the NLRB IG to formally investigate this whistleblower's accusations, we request your answers to the following questions no later than Monday, May 5:

1. Did the NLRB permit DOGE engineers to access the Board's NxGen internal case management system?
  - a. If so, who at the Board made the decision to grant this access?
    - i. Was there a formal memorandum of understanding signed to grant this access? If so, did it provide for "tenant owner level" access? If not, why were DOGE staff permitted to access NLRB data without an MOU?
    - ii. Which DOGE individuals were permitted access?
    - iii. What was the reasoning for permitting access to these individuals?
    - iv. What level of access were these individuals granted and what was the justification for providing this level of access? Were these officials granted access in a manner that prevented their activities from being tracked?
2. What information was taken when nearly 10 gigabytes of data were extracted from the NLRB's NxGen case management system? Can the NLRB confirm that DOGE officials were responsible for this extraction?
  - a. Why were the logs used to monitor outbound traffic from the NxGen system deleted during this process?
  - b. Why was the NLRB IT team's request for assistance from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) regarding this data extraction disrupted?
  - c. Who was responsible for disabling the controls to prevent insecure or unauthorized mobile devices from logging on to the system without proper security settings?
    - i. How long were these controls disabled, thus leaving the interface exposed to the public internet and allowing malicious actors to access the NLRB's systems?
  - d. What does the NLRB know about the "user roster" file that was exported by an unknown user?


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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/johnhyatt/2025/04/16/doge-staffers-pay-visit-to-nlrb-offices-following-whistleblower-report/>

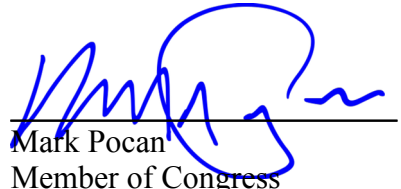
- e. Did the data that was extracted contain any non-public information, such as workers' personal information or specific documents related cases before the Board?
3. Is the NLRB aware of any backdoor code that was created to extract files from the Board's internal case management system?
4. What does the Board know about the threats made to the whistleblower, including an alleged printed letter with threatening language, sensitive personal information and overhead pictures of him walking his dog?
5. What was the purpose of DOGE's visit to NLRB headquarters on April 16, 2025?

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

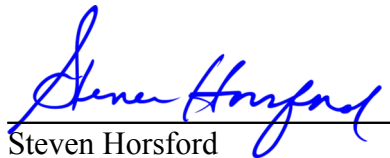
Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chair, Congressional  
Labor Caucus



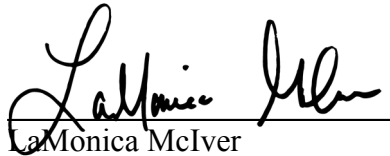
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chair, Congressional  
Labor Caucus



Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chair, Congressional  
Labor Caucus



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chair, Congressional  
Labor Caucus



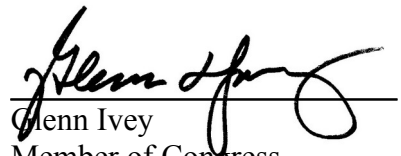
LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



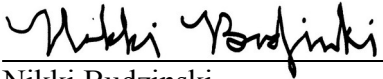
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



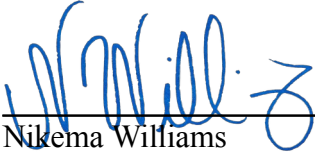
Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski  
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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



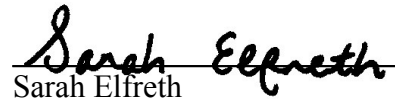
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Mary Gay Scanlon  
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Rosa L. DeLauro  
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Sarah Elfreth  
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Seth Magaziner  
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Maxine Dexter  
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John Garamendi  
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Jan Schakowsky  
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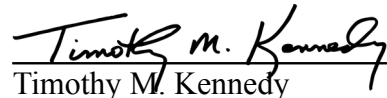
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Dan Goldman  
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Greg Casar  
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Mark DeSaulnier  
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
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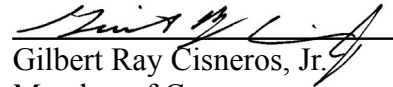
Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



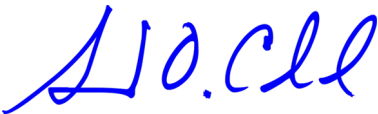
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



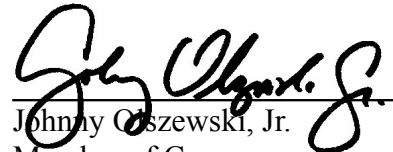
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



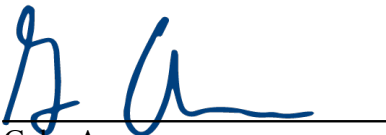
Johnny Oszewski, Jr.  
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Shri Thanedar  
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Andrea Salinas  
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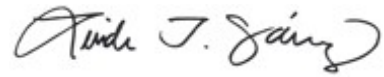
Gabe Amo  
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Veronica Escobar  
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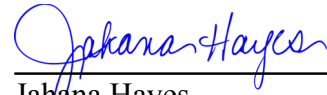
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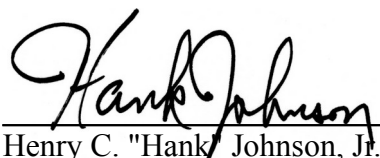
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Sean Casten  
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
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Pramila Jayapal  
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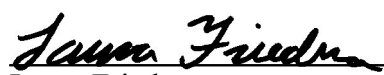
Shontel M. Brown  
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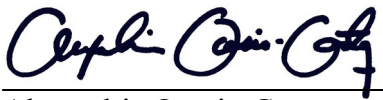
Haley M. Stevens  
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Eric Sorensen  
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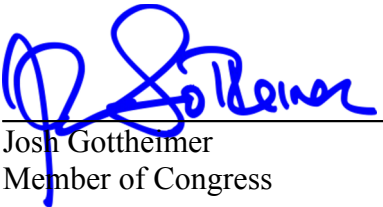
Laura Friedman  
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



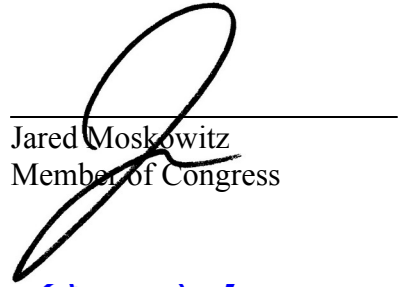
Summer L. Lee  
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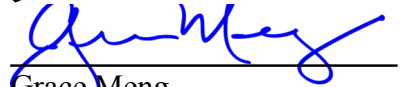
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Grace Meng  
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April McClain Delaney  
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
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