

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2703 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20593

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

We write to you to express concerns about the newly created “Disinformation Governance Board” within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which you announced last week.¹ The creation of this Board is problematic for several reasons.

First, we have ethical concerns about an organization charged with securing the homeland engaging in anything that could have an impact on speech. We believe that the Disinformation Governance Board could be utilized as a political tool under the guise of security. This has the potential to severely undermine the American people’s confidence in the Department, especially as we enter the 2022 election season.

Second, the Department’s primary mission sets are countering terrorism, securing the border, securing cyberspace and infrastructure, upholding economic security, strengthening resilience, and strengthening DHS itself.² Traditionally, combatting misinformation has been a foreign mission relegated to the elements of the intelligence community with equities in foreign operations. As a domestically focused Department, we are concerned that DHS is overstepping its authority with the creation of this Board. DHS has developed a stalwart reputation as a defender of the homeland primarily because it has focused on these mission sets and has remained non-partisan in achieving them. Implementing something as vague as a “Disinformation Governance Board” will distract from these mission sets and potentially tarnish the non-partisan reputation the Department has developed since its founding.

Additionally, during your testimony last week, you claimed the Biden administration has “effectively managed” the border crisis.³ Meanwhile, the policies of the current administration have resulted in over 1.5 million border encounters in the last six months, which is the largest in our nation’s history.⁴ We are concerned that the Disinformation Governance Board will distract from this crisis.

Third, we are concerned with the appointment of Nina Jankowicz as the head of this Board. Ms. Jankowicz has, on several occasions, displayed questionable judgment on matters of

¹ The Washington Post, [“Disinformation board to tackle Russia, migrant smugglers,”](#) April 28, 2022.

² The Department of Homeland Security, [Mission Statement](#).

³ Fox News, [“Mayorkas claims Biden admin has 'effectively managed' border crisis, deflects blame,”](#) April 27, 2022.

⁴ The Wall Street Journal, [“U.S.-Mexico Border Arrests Top One Million in Six Months,”](#) April 18, 2022.

disinformation and freedom of speech.⁵ For example, she has expressed support for Christopher Steele, author of the Steele Dossier. This document has long-since been discredited as one of its main sources was charged with five counts of making false statements to the FBI. Ms. Jankowicz has also cast doubt on the Hunter Biden laptop story, which she falsely claimed was “a Trump campaign product.”⁶

For these reasons, we request that you respond to the following questions thirty days from the date of receipt of this letter.

1. Under what legal authority is DHS creating this Disinformation Governance Board?
2. What is the Board’s specific directive and mission? What authorities will it have under the Department?
3. How does this Board help DHS protect the homeland from threats? Why is DHS putting valuable resources toward a mission that it appears to have no equity in when there is an ongoing crisis at our southern border?
4. Why was Ms. Jankowicz chosen to head this Board? Who were the other candidates considered for this position? What qualifications and vetting procedures did the Department utilize when determining who would head up the Disinformation Governance Board?

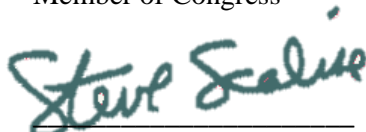
Sincerely,



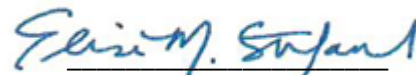
C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



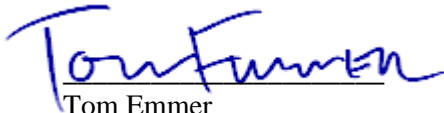
Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



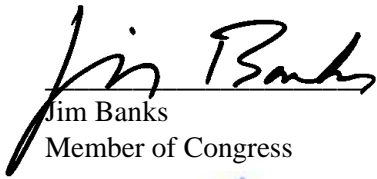
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

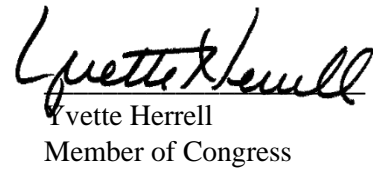


Gary Palmer
Member of Congress

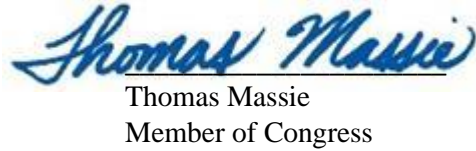
⁵ The Washington Examiner, “[Biden ‘disinformation’ chief a Trump dossier author fan and Hunter Biden laptop doubter,](#)” April 28, 2022.

⁶ Fox News, “[Biden's disinformation director referred to Hunter's laptop as a 'Trump campaign product'.](#)” April 28, 2022.


Jim Banks
Member of Congress

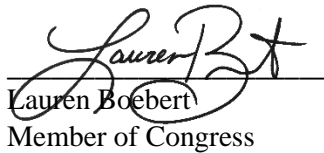

Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress

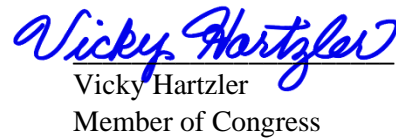

Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress


Thomas Massie
Member of Congress


Michael Cloud
Member of Congress

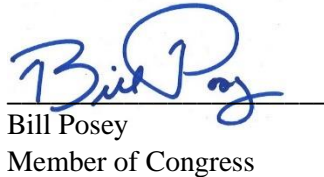

Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress

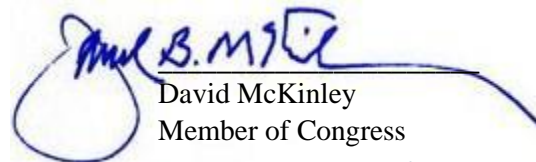

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress

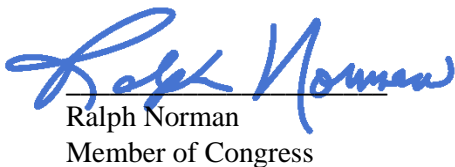

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

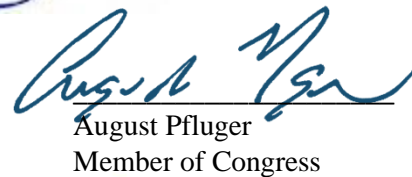

John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress


Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

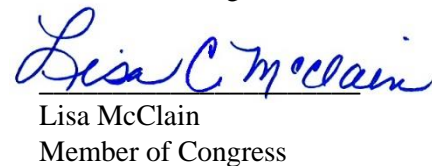

Bill Posey
Member of Congress

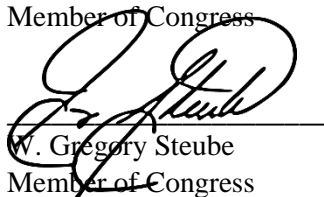

David McKinley
Member of Congress

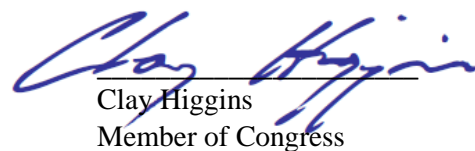

Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

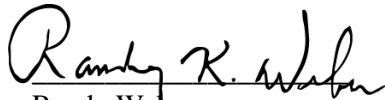

August Pfluger
Member of Congress


Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress


Lisa McClain
Member of Congress


W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress


Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



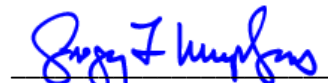
Randy Weber
Member of Congress



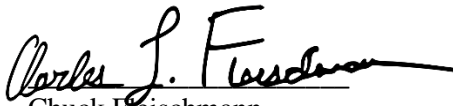
Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



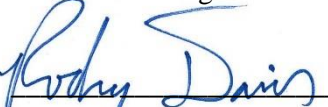
Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress



Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



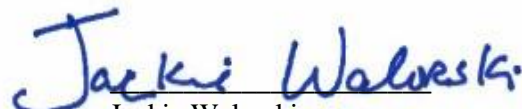
Nancy Mace
Member of Congress



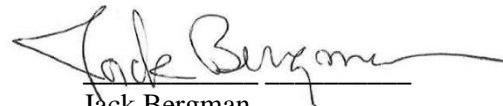
Rick Crawford
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Ted Budd
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Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress




Fred Keller
Member of Congress



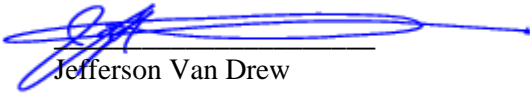
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



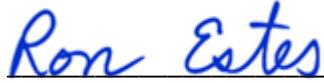
Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Madison Cawthorn
Member of Congress



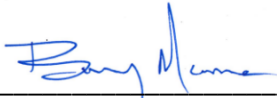
Jefferson Van Drew
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Ron Estes
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Vern Buchanan
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Barry Moore
Member of Congress



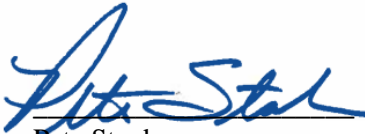
Jody Hice
Member of Congress



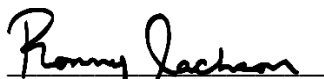
Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



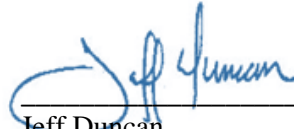
Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



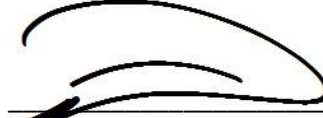
Pete Stauber
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Ronny E. Jackson
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



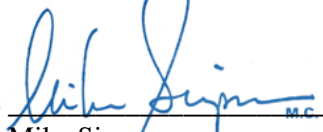
Scott DesJarlais
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Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



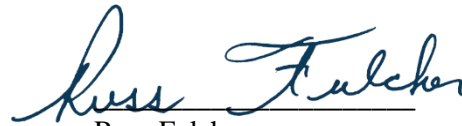
Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



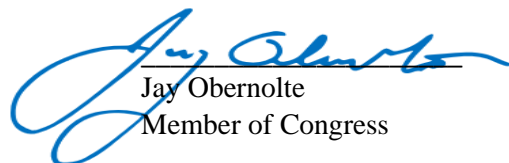
Andy Biggs
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Warren Davidson
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Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



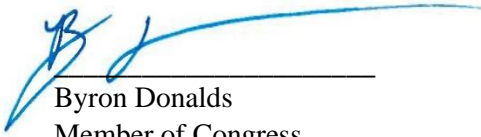
Jay Obernolte
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Guy Reschenthaler
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Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress



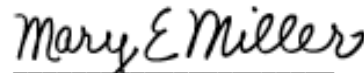
John Joyce
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
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Austin Scott
Member of Congress



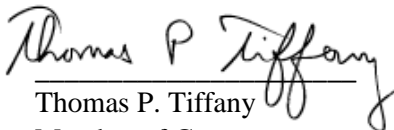
Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



Tracey Mann
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



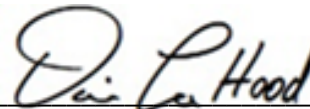
Thomas P. Tiffany
Member of Congress



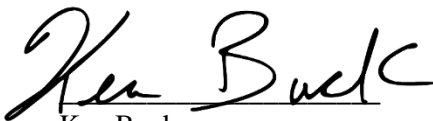
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



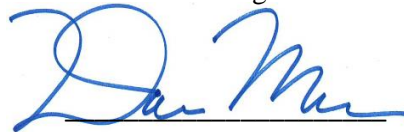
Ken Buck
Member of Congress




Mike Carey
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Kevin Hern
Member of Congress




Dan Meuser
Member of Congress



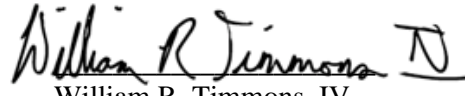
Scott Perry
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Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



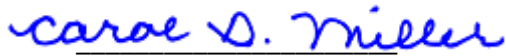
William R. Timmons, IV
Member of Congress



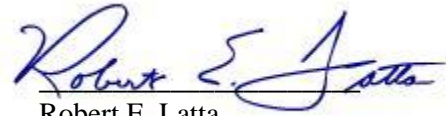
Beth Van Duyne
Member of Congress



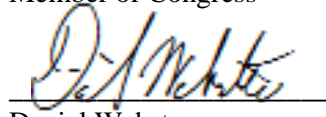
Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



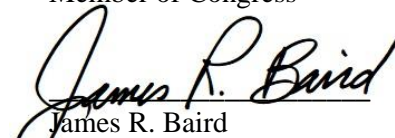
Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress




Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



James R. Baird
Member of Congress



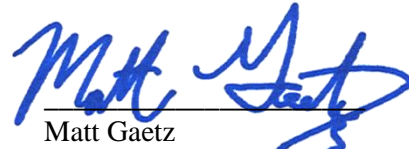
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress




Bill Johnson
Member of Congress




Ken Calvert
Member of Congress




Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



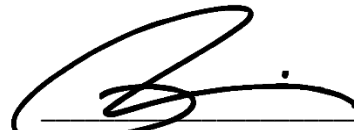
Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



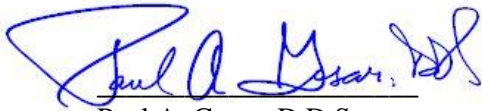
Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



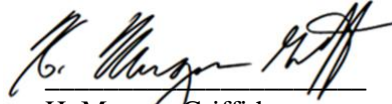
Mike Bost
Member of Congress



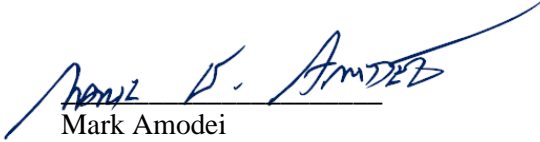
Brian Mast
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



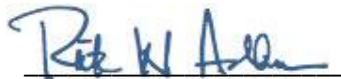
H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



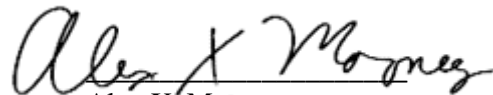
Mark Amodei
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



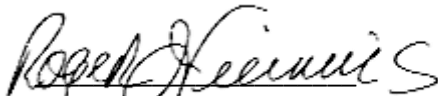
Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



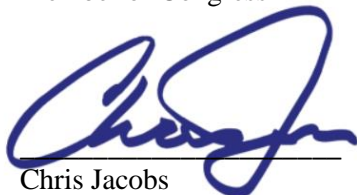
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
Member of Congress




Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress




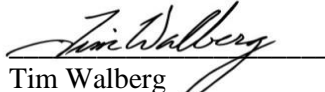
Chris Jacobs
Member of Congress



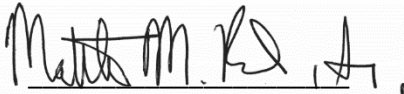
Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress


Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

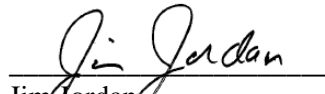

Mariannette Miller Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress



Matt Rosendale
Member of Congress



Julia Letlow
Member of Congress



Bob Good
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress

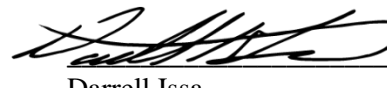

Jim Jordan
Member of Congress


Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress


Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress


Darrell Issa
Member of Congress


Tim Burchett
Member of Congress

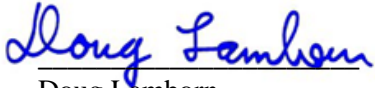

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress


Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress


Greg Pence
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



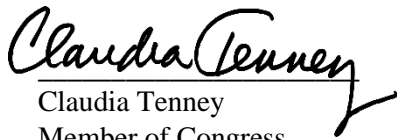
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



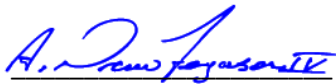
French Hill
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



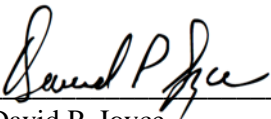
A. Drew Ferguson IV
Member of Congress



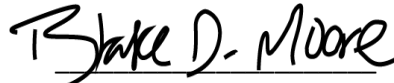
Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



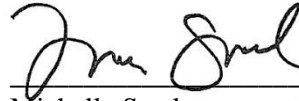
Tony Gonzalez
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Blake Moore
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress



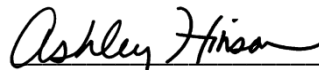
Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Pat Fallon
Member of Congress



Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress



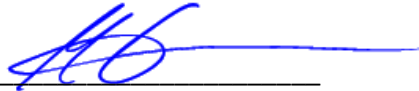
Jason Smith
Member of Congress




John Katko
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress




Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



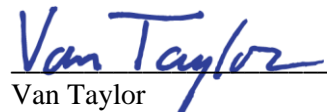
Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



Mark E Green, M.D.
Member of Congress



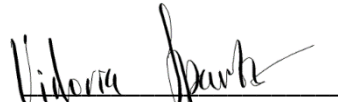
Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress



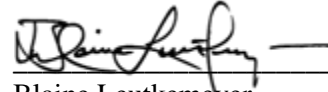
Van Taylor
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress



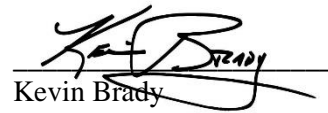
Blaine Leutkemeyer
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



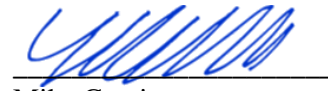
Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



Trey Hollingsworth
Member of Congress



Mike Garcia
Member of Congress



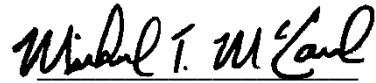
Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress



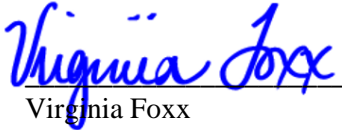
Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress