

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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October 23, 2025

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Jordan:

Last week, I applauded your call for transparency about Special Counsel Jack Smith's investigation into how President Trump knowingly retained hundreds of highly classified records at his Mar-a-Lago club and then defied subpoenas, obstructed law enforcement, actively hid evidence, and lied about his continuing retention of those records.¹ I commended you for apparently joining us in demanding the full release of Mr. Smith's report—paid for by American taxpayers—as well as all accompanying records which the Department of Justice (DOJ) has been desperately concealing. I am now calling on you to accept Mr. Smith's offer to testify at a public hearing so the American people can all hear directly from him

Until now, Special Counsels leading investigations into a sitting or former president have *always* appeared before Congress to publicly answer questions about their investigations' findings. That is not because both parties necessarily agreed with the Special Counsels' conclusions, but because of the overwhelming public interest in understanding the substance, scope, and conclusions of their investigations. Special Counsel John Durham testified publicly before the House Judiciary Committee in June 2023.² Special Counsel Robert Mueller testified publicly before the House Judiciary and Intelligence Committees in July 2019.³ Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr testified publicly before the House Judiciary Committee in November

¹ Press Release, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, *Ranking Member Raskin's Statement on Judiciary Republicans' Request for Testimony from Former Special Counsel Jack Smith* (Oct. 14, 2025), <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/ranking-member-raskin-s-statement-on-judiciary-republicans-request-for-testimony-from-former-special-counsel-jack-smith>.

² Barbara Sprunt, *Trump-Era Special Counsel Defends His Report on Russia Probe Against Democrats' Jabs*, NPR (June 21, 2023), <https://www.npr.org/2023/06/21/1183438248/durham-special-counsel-report-hearing-trump-congress>.

³ Julie Hirschfeld Davis & Mark Mazzetti, *Highlights of Robert Mueller's Testimony to Congress*, N.Y. TIMES (July 24, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/24/us/politics/mueller-testimony.html>.

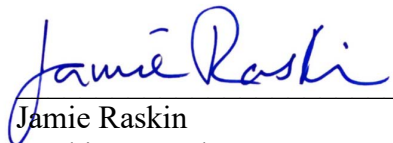
1998.⁴ And just last year, in March 2024, Special Counsel Robert Hur testified publicly before the House Judiciary Committee.⁵

Mr. Smith has led not one but two significant investigations into criminal wrongdoing by President Trump. The first involved President Trump's role leading a conspiracy to overturn the 2020 elections by promoting "bullshit" claims of election fraud, attempting to submit false slates of electors and to coerce Vice President Pence into accepting them, and, when all else failed, directing a violent mob to attack the U.S. Capitol.⁶ The second involved President Trump's deliberate hoarding of classified documents at Mar-a-Lago and his subsequent obstruction of justice to cover up his offense.⁷ To this day, DOJ is fighting to prevent the release of the Special Counsel's full report regarding this criminal activity. I know you agree that the American people, whose tax dollars funded these investigations, have a compelling interest—indeed a right—in hearing directly from Mr. Smith about both investigations into the sitting President of the United States.

Your letter to Mr. Smith and your statements over the past few years have leveled serious accusations against him and his team, claiming they engaged in "partisan and politically motivated prosecutions" and employed "disturbing tactics" that "undermined the integrity of the criminal justice system."⁸ You have invited Mr. Smith to appear for a secret, closed-door transcribed interview to answer the Committee's questions. But Mr. Smith has made clear that he is prepared to address those allegations publicly, and I can think of no reason to deny the American people the opportunity to hear his testimony, under oath and with questioning from Members of both parties, and to let all Americans judge for themselves the integrity of Mr. Smith's investigations. There is no reason his appearance should be in the shadows of a backroom and subject to the usual tiresome partisan tactics of leak-and-distort.

I therefore call on you to accept Mr. Smith's offer and schedule a public hearing of the full Committee at the earliest opportunity.

Very truly yours,


Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

⁴ *Impeachment Inquiry: Presentation by Inquiring Counsel and Presentation by the Office of Independent Counsel: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 105th Cong. (1998) (testimony of Kenneth W. Starr, Independent Counsel).

⁵ Devlin Barrett, *Five Takeaways from the Hur Special Counsel Hearing*, WASH. POST (Mar. 12, 2024), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2024/03/12/biden-hur-hearing-key-takeaways/>.

⁶ Susan B. Glasser, *Bill Barr Calls "Bullshit" on Trump's Election Lies*, NEW YORKER (June 3, 2022), <https://www.newyorker.com/news/letter-from-bidens-washington/bill-barr-calls-bullshit-on-trumps-election-lies>.

⁷ Katherine Faulders et al., *Timeline: Special Counsel's Investigation Into Trump's Handling of Classified Documents*, ABC NEWS (Oct. 14, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/timeline-special-counsels-investigation-trumps-handling-classified-documents/story?id=101768329>.

⁸ Letter from Hon. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Mr. Jack Smith, Former Special Counsel (Oct. 14, 2025), <https://judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-10-14-jdj-to-smith-re-ti-request.pdf>.