

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 12, 2025

Mr. David Ellison
Chief Executive Officer
Paramount Skydance Corporation
1515 Broadway
New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr. Ellison:

We write to express our concern over your inadequate and incomplete response to our questions about Paramount's recent merger with Skydance. On August 20, 2025, we wrote to you following the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) approval of the \$8 billion Skydance-Paramount merger.¹ The circumstances surrounding the approval raise significant questions, and as part of our mandate to conduct congressional oversight, we are once again seeking your cooperation in providing answers to our questions and the requested documents.

As we carefully detailed in our letter, the timing of this approval from the Trump Administration was deeply suspicious. It came only after Skydance and Paramount agreed to make millions of dollars in payments and to provide free services directly to Donald Trump and to support his future presidential library.² In addition to the payments, Skydance also agreed to install an ombudsman to monitor CBS's editorial decisions and root out "bias" against the President and his personal agenda.³ Since then, your company appointed Kenneth Weinstein of the Hudson Institute as its new in-house censor who appears to bring little journalistic or legal experience to the position.⁴ Meanwhile, the appointment of Bari Weiss as editor-in-chief of CBS News and the acquisition of *The Free Press* suggest a new and concerted right-wing approach to your news operation.⁵

¹ Letter from Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce and Rep. Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, House Committee on the Judiciary, to David Ellison (Aug. 20, 2025).

² *Trump Celebrates \$16 Million '60 Minutes' Settlement—And Suggests He'll Get Another \$20 Million, Too*, Forbes (July 22, 2025); *Trump Nods to Side Deal with Ellisons, Says '60 Minutes' Settlement Includes Additional \$16 Million in Advertising*, The Wrap (July 7, 2025).

³ *Skydance Informs Trump's FCC It Will Eliminate DEI at Paramount, Create CBS News Ombudsman Following Merger*, Fox Business (July 23, 2025); *Skydance Says Ombudsman Will Monitor Bias Concerns at CBS News*, Bloomberg (July 23, 2025).

⁴ *Paramount Appoints Conservative Think Tank Ex-CEO Kenneth Weinstein as CBS News Ombudsman*, The Wrap (Sept. 8, 2025).

⁵ *Bari Weiss Named Editor In Chief of CBS News*, Washington Post (Oct. 6, 2025).

Our August 20, 2025, letter contained six specific and detailed questions and requests.⁶ Your counsel's August 29, 2025, response to our letter not only failed to address any of our requests, it raised additional questions and concerns.⁷ We write today because your response does not appear to reflect a good-faith effort to cooperate with our committees' investigation. Therefore, we reiterate our previous requests below, and attached to this letter as an appendix, and seek clarification on some pressing new questions.

The first request sought a copy of the settlement agreement between Skydance or Paramount and President Trump and a copy of all related communications. Your response provided neither.

The second request sought information regarding any commitments made by Skydance to President Trump or his representative for "advertising, public service announcements, or other programming," which President Trump himself stated that he "anticipated receiving."⁸ Your response did not provide any of this information.

The third request sought a copy of communications between Paramount or Skydance and members or representatives of the Administration. Your response provided none.

The fifth request sought internal communications and documentation, including due diligence, regarding the terms of the settlement, merger, side deals, or policy changes. Your response provided none.

The sixth request sought communications and documents sent among Skydance, Paramount, and FCC or its representatives regarding the merger that refer to the President's lawsuit against CBS, FCC's distortion investigation, or side agreements. Again, your response provided none.

The only request your response attempted to address was our fourth, which sought a description of communications with the President or other representatives of the Administration from April 12, 2025; July 7, 2025; or any other day during the pendency of the merger between Skydance and Paramount. Your response stated that Paramount engaged only in "routine and customary interactions" with government officials.⁹ Your assertion that it is "routine and customary" for the President of the United States to endorse a multi-billion merger that had been

⁶ See note 1.

⁷ Letter from Kevin Barstow, O'Melveny & Myers to Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce and Rep. Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, House Committee on the Judiciary (Aug. 29, 2025).

⁸ Donald J. Trump (@realdonaldtrump), Truth Social (July 22, 2025, 2:10pm) (<https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/114898229237459086>).

⁹ See note 7.

pending for more than eight months just days after the CEO of Skydance sat next to the President at an Ultimate Fighting Championships event is profoundly troubling.¹⁰

Your letter also triggered some additional questions. Your response asserts that “Skydance has fully complied with all applicable laws, including our nation’s anti-bribery laws.”¹¹ Your response does not, however, make the same representation regarding Paramount—it only states that there were “policies and procedures designed to ensure compliance.”¹² Your letter also does not state what these purported policies and procedures were, nor does your response assert that Paramount actually followed these policies and procedures or fully complied with all applicable laws, including anti-bribery laws. These omissions are noticeable and disturbing.

Given the lack of meaningful responses to our requests, your letter calls into question whether your company intends to cooperate with our investigation. To address these concerns, we ask you to provide documents and answers that are responsive to our letter as soon as possible, but no later than November 26, 2025.

We look forward to your prompt and substantive cooperation with these important oversight requests.

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary

¹⁰ *Trump Says David Ellison Is ‘Great, He’ll Do a Great Job’ Running Merged Skydance-Paramount, as FCC Deal Approval Is Still Pending*, Variety (June 18, 2025); Federal Communications Commission, *Skydance Media and Paramount Global*, MB Docket No. 24-275 (<https://www.fcc.gov/transaction/skydance-paramount>) (accessed Oct. 30, 2025).

¹¹ See note 7.

¹² *Id.*