

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 8, 2026

The Honorable Kashyap Patel  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Patel:

We write in light of the growing number of credible public reports and non-public sources identifying episodes of your misuse and mismanagement of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) resources. This abuse obviously comes at the expense of the American taxpayer and ongoing Bureau operations as it ties up Bureau aircraft, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams, and agents in ways so outrageous that even congressional Republicans can no longer ignore them. For example, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley—one of President Donald Trump’s staunchest defenders in Congress—raised serious concerns in a private letter to you on May 5, 2026, requesting information about your spending.<sup>1</sup>

We appreciate Chairman Grassley raising these concerns, which mirror those raised repeatedly by House and Senate Judiciary Committee Democrats. He has requested information about your jet use, your purchase of a fleet of brand new luxury BMWs, and whether you have reimbursed the taxpayers for your travels.<sup>2</sup> The House Judiciary Committee has been provided additional information concerning these subjects, including:

- Your VIP snorkeling experience in Hawaii was not an isolated incident; you frequently demand special perks on “official” trips around the globe, such as a taxpayer-funded helicopter tour during your multi-country jaunt across East Asia<sup>3</sup> and other recreational activities like jet skiing.<sup>4</sup>
- Your jet-setting and the lack of justification for these trips are “out of control,” and the new attaché office you established in Wellington, New Zealand, may have been opened in part to justify a sightseeing trip you took there.

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from The Hon. Charles Grassley, Chairman, S. Comm. on the Judiciary, to The Hon. Kashyap Patel, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation (May 5, 2026) (on file with the House and Senate Judiciary Committees).

<sup>2</sup> See Ken Dilanian & Carol Leonnig, *Kash Patel’s New Ride of Choice: An Armored Luxury BMW*, MS NOW (Dec. 22, 2025), <https://www.ms.now/news/kash-patels-new-ride-of-choice-an-armored-luxury-bmw>.

<sup>3</sup> According to information made available to Ranking Member Raskin’s office, paying for this was a point of particular contention between the FBI and the Pentagon.

<sup>4</sup> Annabella Rosciglione, *FBI Agents Spill on Keystone Kash’s ‘Crazy’ Diva Demands*, DAILY BEAST (Jan. 22, 2026), <https://www.thedailybeast.com/fbi-agents-spill-on-keystone-kash-patels-crazy-diva-demands/>.

- You demoted personnel in Brussels because they failed to ensure you were adequately entertained, stoking fear among rank-and-file agents that they must provide your demanded perks or face termination. Concerns and strains prompted by the prioritization of your personal entertainment on international trips may have led to the resignation of the head of the FBI's international operations this year.

Unfortunately, these reports are not surprising given that, as a credible source relayed to Ranking Member Durbin's staff, you told field offices in a meeting last year, "If you have golf, hockey, fishing, or hunting and beautiful sights, you're going to see a lot of me."<sup>5</sup> This is not the conduct of a committed and faithful public servant, especially one entrusted with ensuring the safety of almost 350 million Americans.

Your already sparse public justifications for these incidents cannot be taken at face value. For instance, your testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee regarding your \$100,000 trip to the Winter Olympics in Milan, Italy, is contradicted by your past public statement about that trip. You testified that the FBI "purposely planned that trip around the Olympics because ... the top cybercriminal from the [Chinese Communist Party] was housed in Italian custody."<sup>6</sup> However, you posted your plans to travel to the Winter Olympics for the U.S. Men's Hockey Team on July 3, 2025, stating: "NHL agreed to let the boys play in the next Olympics this coming winter- first time in over a decade... Team USA, I'll see you there."<sup>7</sup> July 3, 2025, was also the same date Italy took physical custody of this person, which was 218 days prior to the opening of the Milan Olympics.<sup>8</sup> Are we to believe that a mission-driven reason led the FBI to wait more than seven months to send you to Italy for this defendant—during its hosting of the Winter Olympics—only to again wait another two months after that to extradite him to the United States?<sup>9</sup>

As FBI Director, you are a "required use" traveler, and your use of government-owned aircraft is warranted for security reasons, even for personal travel. But you are also required to pay the taxpayer back for such personal travel, and there is no exception for personal trips where you add a cosmetic work meeting or two. A slew of federal travel and ethics rules bar you from orchestrating exactly this kind of taxpayer-funded vacation where official business was limited to

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<sup>5</sup> Letter from The Hon. Richard J. Durbin, Ranking Member, S. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Orice Williams Brown, Acting Comptroller, U.S. Gov't Accountability Office and Don R. Berthiaume, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Dep't of Justice (Feb. 24, 2026), <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2026-02-24%20Letter%20to%20GAO%20and%20DOJ%20IG%20on%20Kash%20Patel%20Olympic%20Travel.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> S. COMM. ON APPROPRIATIONS, SUBCOMM. ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES, *FBI Dir. Kash Patel & Other Federal Law Enforcement Officials Testify on the 2027 Budget Request* at 1:07:05, C-SPAN (May 12, 2026), <https://www.c-span.org/program/senate-committee/fbi-dir-kash-patel-other-federal-law-enforcement-officials-testify-on-the-2027-budget-request/678779>.

<sup>7</sup> Kash Patel (@Kash\_Patel), X (July 3, 2025), [https://x.com/Kash\\_Patel/status/1940689160656114026](https://x.com/Kash_Patel/status/1940689160656114026).

<sup>8</sup> Press Release, *Justice Department Announces Arrest of Prolific Chinese State-Sponsored Contract Hacker*, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE (July 8, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-arrest-prolific-chinese-state-sponsored-contract-hacker>.

<sup>9</sup> Press Release, *Prolific Chinese State-Sponsored Contract Hacker Extradited from Italy*, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE (Apr. 27, 2026), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/prolific-chinese-state-sponsored-contract-hacker-extradited-italy>.

perfunctory, pro forma meetings designed to cover the tracks of essentially personal travel.<sup>10</sup> While you are permitted to combine official and non-mission travel, you—not the taxpayers—are required to bear any excess costs.<sup>11</sup> Thus far, there has been no indication that you have done what is required under the law. Indeed, your lack of judiciousness regarding your personal travel and dubious use of official travel appear to violate not only government ethics law and Department of Justice (DOJ) policy, but also White House directives. Despite its myriad failures and hypocrisies on this point, the Trump Administration has expressly promised Americans that it would crack down on waste, fraud, and abuse of government spending and has reportedly directed officials to limit their travel, particularly overseas travel or travel unrelated to the President's agenda.<sup>12</sup>

The American people deserve an FBI Director focused on keeping us all safe rather than jet-setting to check off personal bucket list items. Congress requires a transparent accounting of how you are using Americans' hard-earned tax dollars. Accordingly, no later than July 22, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., in addition to responding to our previous letters on this topic,<sup>13</sup> please provide the following information that was requested by Chairman Grassley:

1. A list of each flight you took on an FBI aircraft, including the departure and destination location. Label each flight as personal or official and provide the cost of each.
2. For each trip where you used an FBI aircraft for personal travel, have you fully reimbursed the costs as required by law? If yes, provide all records. If not, why not?
3. Please explain why you decided to purchase BMW vehicles instead of Chevy Suburbans.
4. For each purchased BMW, answer the following:
  - a. Are all of them an armored version?;

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<sup>10</sup> U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, *Investigative Summary 25-086*, [https://oig.justice.gov/sites/default/files/reports/25-086\\_0.pdf](https://oig.justice.gov/sites/default/files/reports/25-086_0.pdf); 5 CFR 2635.101(b)(14), 2635.702(a).

<sup>11</sup> U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, *Department of Justice Executives' Use of Aircraft for Nonmission Purposes*, <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-13-235.pdf>; U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE, *Policy Statement 1400.04, 301-41-010: Combining Official and Personal Travel*, [https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/usao/pages/attachments/2015/02/03/combining\\_official\\_and\\_personal\\_travel.pdf](https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/usao/pages/attachments/2015/02/03/combining_official_and_personal_travel.pdf); 41 C.F.R. § 301-10.8.

<sup>12</sup> Sadie Gurman, et al., *Kash Patel's 'Effin Wild' Ride as FBI Director*, WALL ST. J. (Nov. 11, 2025), <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/kash-patel-private-jet-flights-fbi-197da8fd>.

<sup>13</sup> Press Release, *Schumer, Durbin, Hirono Press for Answers on Kash Patel Abuse of Taxpayer Dollars*, SENATE DEMOCRATS (May 29, 2026), <https://www.democrats.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/schumer-durbin-hirono-press-for-answers-on-kash-patel-abuse-of-taxpayer-dollars>; Letter from The Hon. Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary and The Hon. Sydney Kamlager-Dove, Member of Congress, to The Honorable Kashyap Patel, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Dec. 1, 2025), <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-12-01-raskin-kamlager-dove-to-patel-fbi-re-plane.pdf>.

- b. Provide the full purchase cost as compared to a similar Chevy vehicle;
- c. Provide the annual maintenance cost as compared to a similar Chevy vehicle;
- d. Provide the annual fuel cost as compared to a similar Chevy vehicle; and
- e. Provide the annual storage cost as compared to a similar Chevy vehicle.

Please also provide the following information:

5. An accounting of the total taxpayer costs incurred for accommodating you and your guests' travel, security, lodging, and other expenses since February 20, 2025;
6. The schedule of official and personal activities in which you participated during all official or mixed official/personal travel to international destinations and field offices since February 20, 2025;
7. All information regarding your acquisition or acceptance of tickets to entertainment events and the ethics assessments of the propriety of such gifts, including the 2026 Winter Olympics; and
8. All information requested by our prior letters, attached to this letter.

Preserving federal records and safeguarding information critical to congressional oversight is an express legal obligation that you and all DOJ employees, including all employees of the FBI, are required to meet. In accordance with federal law, all employees and officials within the Bureau have a legal responsibility to take measures to preserve, retain, and collect all documents, communications, and other relevant records, including electronic information and metadata that are or may be responsive to each investigation or a congressional inquiry.<sup>14</sup> This includes electronic messages sent using both official and personal accounts or devices and records created using text messages, phone-based message applications, or encryption software.<sup>15</sup> We also expect the Bureau to cooperate fully with the Government Accountability Office's ongoing review of required use travel as originally requested by Ranking Member Durbin on May 7, 2025.

We expect prompt attention to this important matter and thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

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<sup>14</sup> See 44 U.S.C. §§ 3101-3107 (Chapter 31, Records Management by Federal Agencies); 44 U.S.C. §§ 3301-3314 (Chapter 33, Disposal of Records); and 36 C.F.R., Chapter XII, Subchapter B (Records Management).

<sup>15</sup> See 44 U.S.C. § 2911.



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Jamie Raskin  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on the  
Judiciary



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator  
Ranking Member, Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary

Enclosures

cc: Mr. M. Sean O'Neill, Assistant Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General

The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman  
House Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary