

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906

judiciary.house.gov

July 14, 2026

Mr. David Ellison
Chairman & CEO
Paramount Skydance Corporation
5555 Melrose Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90038

Dear Mr. Ellison:

Your company appears to be colluding with the Trump Administration to curtail media independence, promote political and ideological censorship, and stifle dissent. I have written to you repeatedly for information about these allegations. To date, you have failed to provide any meaningful response to my requests.

Now, there are new concerns regarding CBS's editorial independence and trustworthiness. Recently fired *60 Minutes* journalist Scott Pelley alleges that the newly installed CBS editor-in-chief Bari Weiss asked him to "make the [ICE] protestors look more violent" and "describe Renee Good as driving toward the officer"¹ during a segment on the killing of Renée Good.² Her editorial preferences certainly mirror how the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) sought to deflect responsibility for the killing, smear the deceased Renée Good, and spread blatant lies and propaganda to undermine eyewitness accounts and clear video footage.³ As Mr. Pelley alleges, Ms. Weiss "was putting a thumb on the scale on behalf of the [Trump] administration."⁴

Last summer, at a press conference with reporters, you assured the country that you would not seek to "influence" CBS's newsroom and would maintain its "independence and

¹ Headquarters, @HQNewsNow, X (June 8, 2026), <https://x.com/HQNewsNow/status/2064002827765076385>.

² Zoe Sottile, et al., *911 Transcripts, Incident Reports and Videos Show How an ICE Agent Shot a Mother of 3 at 'Point Blank Range,'* CNN (Jan. 17, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/17/us/ice-shooting-minneapolis-renee-good>.

³ Mark Scheffler, *How We Determined That Minneapolis Videos Contradicted Federal Officials*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 26, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/26/insider/minneapolis-ice-shooting-videos-investigation.html>; Amanda Watford, *Footage, Documents at Odds with DHS Accounts of Immigration Enforcement Incidents*, STATELINE (Jan. 23, 2026), <https://stateline.org/2026/01/23/footage-documents-at-odds-with-dhs-accounts-of-immigration-enforcement-incidents/>.

⁴ Edward Helmore, *Scott Pelley Says Bari Weiss Wanted 60 Minutes to Say Renée Good Was 'Driving Toward Officer,'* THE GUARDIAN (June 8, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2026/jun/07/scott-pelley-bari-weiss-renee-good-report>.

objectivity.”⁵ Following Mr. Pelley’s firing, you reiterated your promise to respect the editorial independence of *60 Minutes*.⁶ Yet, these new allegations undercut these representations and instead indicate that you are working to ensure that CBS’s news coverage will be very much to the President’s liking and consistent with his recasting of the news.

Last year, Ms. Weiss delayed a planned *60 Minutes* segment critical of the Trump Administration’s deportations to an El Salvador prison, in a move many in the newsroom criticized as “political.”⁷ A 46-year veteran of CBS News recently quit, stating in her departure memo that “we’ve been told to aim our reporting at a particular part of the political spectrum.”⁸ And pressure from CBS’s legal department led to *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert* choosing not to broadcast an interview with Texas Senate candidate James Talarico and instead only streaming it on YouTube.⁹ Mr. Colbert stated that he was told “in no uncertain terms that we could not have him on the broadcast” and “in some uncertain terms ... I could not mention me not having him on.”¹⁰

Of course, tilting and skewing the news in favor of President Trump was always part of the devil’s bargain you struck with his Administration to acquire CBS in the first place. To persuade the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to approve your \$8 billion bid for Paramount, you agreed to settle President Trump’s frivolous and laughable lawsuit against CBS’s *60 Minutes*—resulting in a \$16 million payout directly to the President and another \$20 million in free advertisements or related programming on the network for the Administration.¹¹ You also agreed to install a MAGA “minder” in the newsroom to ensure in real time that CBS’s coverage is ideologically aligned with the President’s views.¹²

⁵ Ted Johnson, *New Paramount Execs Address CBS News Independence; Ombudsman Will Be “A Transparency Vehicle, Not an Oversight Vehicle,”* DEADLINE (Aug. 7, 2025), <https://deadline.com/2025/08/skydance-paramount-merger-cbs-news-1236481168/>.

⁶ Benjamin Mullin & Michael M. Grynbaum, *Paramount C.E.O. Promises Editorial Independence for ‘60 Minutes,’ Lesley Stahl Says*, N.Y. TIMES (June 9, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/09/business/media/60-minutes-david-ellison-paramount.html>.

⁷ Stephen Battaglio, *CBS News Correspondent Accuses Bari Weiss of ‘Political’ Move in Pulling ‘60 Minutes’ Piece*, L.A. TIMES (Dec. 22, 2025), <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/business/story/2025-12-21/cbs-correspondent-accuses-bari-weiss-of-political-move-in-pulling-60-minutes-piece>.

⁸ Jeremy Barr, *Departing CBS News Producer Claims Political Bias as Paramount Poised to Buy Warner Bros*, THE GUARDIAN (Feb. 27, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2026/feb/27/cbs-news-political-bias-paramount-warner-bros>.

⁹ Trish Bendix, *Colbert Says What CBS Told Him Not to Say*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 17, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/17/arts/television/colbert-fcc-trump-talarico-cbs.html>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Letter to David Ellison, CEO, Paramount Skydance Corporation, from The Hon. Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Energy and Commerce, and The Hon. Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (Aug. 20, 2025), <https://democrats-energycommerce.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-energycommerce.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025.08.20.pallone-raskin-to-ellison-paramount-skydance-re-merger.pdf>.

¹² Press Release, *E&C and Judiciary Democrats Launch Investigation into Paramount-Skydance Merger*, H. COMM. ON ENERGY & COMMERCE DEMOCRATS (Aug. 21, 2025), <https://democrats-energycommerce.house.gov/media/press-releases/ec-and-judiciary-democrats-launch-investigation-skydance-paramount-merger>.

These obvious problems are heightened as you continue your spree of buying media companies. In December 2025, when Netflix appeared poised to acquire Warner Bros. Discovery, President Trump stated that he would intervene in the proposed acquisition and would “be involved in that decision,”¹³ signaling to you and your company that currying his favor would influence the outcome of the sale of Warner.¹⁴ “[A] person close to Trump said the president will want Paramount and Netflix to compete for *his* approval of a deal.”¹⁵ Even FCC Chairman Brendan Carr—who has limited jurisdiction over the potential acquisition—decided to weigh in publicly on the deal in favor of your company, Paramount Skydance.¹⁶ You appeared so confident of your imminent success in winning support from the Trump Administration that you publicly stated that Paramount Skydance would secure “the necessary clearances quickly and efficiently,” presumably because of political interference from the President and Administration officials.¹⁷ Indeed, hours after Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos met with officials at the White House and the Department of Justice to “seek assurances that his company’s prospective acquisition would get a fair review from regulators,” Netflix dropped their offer to Warner, leaving Paramount Skydance as the sole buyer.¹⁸ As the Trump Administration considers your pending acquisition of Warner, you have made “assurances” that you will “make sweeping changes to CNN.”¹⁹ It seems clear that, if given the chance, you will continue the ideological clampdown that began at CBS—appointing “minders” in the CNN newsroom and enabling them to structure and ensure favorable press coverage for President Trump and his allies.

Since taking office, President Trump has sought to exercise unparalleled control over the news media in the United States and abroad. He has filed frivolous nuisance lawsuits against

¹³ Jeff Mason, *Trump Says He’ll Be Involved in Review of Netflix-Warner Brothers Deal*, REUTERS (Dec. 8, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/trump-says-hell-be-involved-review-netflix-warner-brothers-deal-2025-12-08/>.

¹⁴ Jeremy Barr, *Deal or No Deal? The Inside Story of the Battle for Warner Bros.*, THE GUARDIAN (Dec. 13, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/news/ng-interactive/2025/dec/13/deal-or-no-deal-the-inside-story-of-the-battle-for-warner-bros>.

¹⁵ Joe Flint, Brian Schwartz & Natalie Andrews, *Behind Paramount’s Relentless Campaign to Woo Warner Discovery and President Trump*, WALL ST. J. (Dec. 8, 2025) (emphasis added), <https://www.wsj.com/business/media/paramount-netflix-warner-bros-battle-ellisons-a86fe15c>.

¹⁶ David Zimmerman, *FCC Concerns About a WBD Merger Assuaged with Paramount as Buyer: Brendan Carr*, WASH. EXAMINER (Mar. 3, 2026), <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/business/4478161/fcc-concerns-warner-bros-merger-assuaged-paramount-buyer-brendan-carr/>.

¹⁷ Press Release, *Paramount Enhances Its Superior \$30 per Share All-Cash Offer for Warner Bos. Discovery and Provides Update on Regulatory Progress*, PARAMOUNT (Feb. 10, 2026), <https://ir.paramount.com/news-releases/news-release-details/paramount-enhances-its-superior-30-share-all-cash-offer-warner>.

¹⁸ Daniel Miller, *‘Horrifying’: Hollywood Blasts Trump’s Role in Studio Sale*, POLITICO (Feb. 27, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/02/27/horrifying-hollywood-blasts-trumps-role-in-studio-sale-00802771>.

¹⁹ Brian Stelter, *Trump Enters Warner Bros. Fight, Says It’s ‘Imperative that CNN Be Sold,’* CNN (Dec. 10, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/12/10/media/trump-cnn-sold-paramount-warner-bros-netflix>.

media companies,²⁰ sought to impede reporters' access to the White House press pool²¹ and the Pentagon,²² and cut off public funding for public radio and PBS.²³ Like the Communist autocrats he reveres (Supreme Leader of North Korea Kim Jong Un, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and former KGB officer Vladimir Putin), President Trump expects and insists that news outlets will favorably cover his Administration's policies and actions at every turn, in peace and in war. He has been clear that he sees your acquisition of Warner as an opportunity to impose his political views on CNN: "[t]he people that have run CNN for the last long period of time are a disgrace. I think it's imperative that CNN be sold."²⁴ President Trump wants both "new ownership as well as changes to CNN programming."²⁵ And it is plain to see that you have been delivering for President Trump at CBS²⁶ and that Bari Weiss is poised to deliver at CNN, if the acquisition is approved.²⁷

The House Committee on the Judiciary is committed to scrutinizing how the antitrust laws are enforced; how market power abuses might harm not only competition, but consumers, workers, and the public interest; and whether the federal antitrust agencies are promoting competition and innovation—or whether they are using these powers to distort the market and undermine the First Amendment by helping the President's faithful servants censor the news for his political benefit.

In furtherance of the Committee's oversight responsibilities and any potential investigation that may follow, I request the following information by 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2026:

²⁰ Joe Lancaster, *Trump's \$15 Billion Lawsuit Against The New York Times Is His Craziest One Yet*, REASON (Sept. 17, 2025), <https://reason.com/2025/09/17/trumps-15-billion-lawsuit-against-the-new-york-times-is-his-craziest-one-yet/>.

²¹ Timothy Richardson & Viktorya Vilks, *The White House Is Choosing Its Own Press Pool. 5 Reasons That Should Alarm You.*, PEN AMERICA (Apr. 28, 2025), <https://pen.org/the-white-house-is-choosing-its-own-press-pool-5-reasons-that-should-alarm-you/>.

²² David Bauder, *Journalists Turn In Access Badges, Exit Pentagon Rather Than Agree to New Reporting Rules*, ASSOC. PRESS (Oct. 15, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/pentagon-press-access-hegseth-trump-restrictions-5d9c2a63e4e03b91fc1546bb09ffb12>.

²³ David Bauder, *PBS Chief Slams Trump's Executive Order Aiming to Cut Federal Funding for PBS and NPR as Unlawful*, PBS NEWS (May 2, 2025), <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/pbs-chief-slams-trumps-executive-order-aiming-to-cut-federal-funding-for-pbs-and-npr-as-unlawful>.

²⁴ Brian Stetler, *Trump Enters Warner Bros. Fight, Says It's 'Imperative that CNN Be Sold,'* CNN (Dec. 10, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/12/10/media/trump-cnn-sold-paramount-warner-bros-netflix>.

²⁵ Justin Baragona, *Paramount Chief Reportedly Promised Trump 'Sweeping Changes' at CNN as Part of Warner Bros. Takeover*, THE INDEPENDENT (Dec. 9, 2025), <https://www.the-independent.com/news/world/americas/us-politics/paramount-david-ellison-trump-cnn-warner-bros-b2881220.html>.

²⁶ Brian Steinberg, *Is Bari Weiss Breaking the News? Her Tumultuous '60 Minutes' Overhaul Triggers New Fears at CBS*, VARIETY (June 9, 2026), <https://variety.com/2026/tv/news/bari-weiss-breaking-news-60-minutes-overhaul-cbs-fears-1236769856/>; Dave Quinn, *60 Minutes Segment Pulled by CBS' News Editor-in-Chief Bari Weiss, a Decision Its Correspondent Calls 'Political,'* PEOPLE (Dec. 22, 2025), <https://people.com/60-minutes-segment-pulled-bari-weiss-correspondent-calls-decision-political-11874231>.

²⁷ Ariel Zilber, *CBS News Boss Bari Weiss Poised to Oversee CNN Editorial Operations: Report*, N.Y. POST (June 9, 2026), <https://nypost.com/2026/06/09/media/cbs-news-boss-bari-weiss-poised-to-oversee-cnn-editorial-operations-report/>.

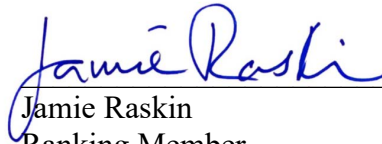
Mr. David Ellison

Page 5

1. Any and all communications from Bari Weiss to the Trump White House, any federal officials, and you regarding CBS's reporting on the killings of Renée Good and Alex Pretti; and
2. Any and all communications from the Trump White House, any federal officials, and you to Bari Weiss or any other employee of CBS News regarding CBS's reporting on the killings of the Renée Good and Alex Pretti.

Given congressional oversight powers, which are broad and deep, Paramount Skydance's full cooperation is expected. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman