

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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August 12, 2026

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

Dear Mr. Ellison:

Last week, in a *New York Times* op-ed, you pledged to tell your story and stay silent “no more.”<sup>1</sup>

This is great news.

Over the past 12 months, I have sent you four letters. You have responded to none of them.

Now that you have vowed to break your long silence, I invite you to a transcribed interview to tell Congress and America your story and answer the Committee’s questions about your Donald Trump-enabled shopping spree to consolidate news organizations, movie studios, cable channels, and streaming services.

I have repeatedly<sup>2</sup> sought answers from you about the Paramount Skydance merger and your planned acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery (Warner) in light of troubling reports that

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<sup>1</sup> David Ellison, *David Ellison: The Critics Are Wrong About My Politics*, N.Y. TIMES (Aug. 4, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/04/opinion/david-ellison-paramount-warner-deal.html>.

<sup>2</sup> 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-merger.pdf>; Press Release, *Ranking Members Raskin and Pallone Demand Paramount Fully Comply with Committees’ Investigation into Paramount-Skydance Merger*, H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY DEMOCRATS (Nov. 12, 2025), <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/ranking-members-raskin-and-pallone-demand-paramount-fully-comply-with-committees-investigation-into-paramount-skydance-merger>; Press Release, *Ranking Members Raskin and Pallone Expand Investigation into Paramount Skydance Amid Dangerous Consolidation of Media Conglomerates and Pressure to Relinquish Editorial Control of CNN to President Trump*, H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY DEMOCRATS (May 12, 2026), <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/ranking-members-raskin-and-pallone-expand-investigation-into-paramount-skydance-amid-dangerous-consolidation-of-media-conglomerates-and-pressure-to-relinquish-editorial-control-of-cnn-to-president-trump>.

your company is colluding with President Trump and his Administration to curtail media independence, spread political censorship, and suppress dissent. I have also written seeking answers about allegations of political interference in CBS News reporting after fired *60 Minutes* staff reported that CBS leadership pressured journalists to alter their coverage of immigration protests in Minneapolis and the killing of Renée Good to more closely resemble the absolute lies spouted by Trump Administration officials in the aftermath of her shooting.<sup>3</sup> To date, you have failed to provide serious responses to these questions.

I have raised significant concerns that your proposed Paramount Skydance acquisition of Warner would dangerously concentrate power in a single conglomerate. Warner is the third largest entertainment media company in the world<sup>4</sup> and one of the most powerful movie and television studios.<sup>5</sup> Among other things, the proposed merger would consolidate two major movie studios, two of the most influential news networks, and multiple streaming platforms, thereby greatly increasing market power in multiple media sectors.<sup>6</sup> The acquisition would, in turn, reduce the number of independent production studios, giving Paramount Skydance greater market share in theatrical releases, home entertainment, and content licensing. Especially troubling, the acquisition would put two major news networks, CBS and CNN, under common ownership. State attorneys general have sued to block this merger, and a federal district court has temporarily blocked the deal as the lawsuit proceeds.<sup>7</sup>

I have also pointed out that, despite your repeated promises to support newsroom independence and respect for the facts, your takeover of CBS already tells a sharply different story. Your company appears to be colluding with the Trump Administration to promote political and ideological censorship at every turn by stifling, revising, or censoring any news stories that depart from the official government orthodoxy dictated by President Trump. CBS's own reporters have shared how, under your leadership, the newsroom has catered to President Trump's political whims and dictates under the watchful eye of a MAGA minder. Since you

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<sup>3</sup> Press Release, *Ranking Member Raskin Expands Investigation into Political Interference in CBS News After Scott Pelley Blows Whistle on Newsroom Interference*, H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY DEMOCRATS (July 14, 2026), <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/ranking-member-raskin-expands-investigation-into-political-interference-in-cbs-news-after-scott-pelley-blows-whistle-on-newsroom-interference>.

<sup>4</sup> Adam Levy, *The Big 6 Media Companies*, MOTLEY FOOL (Feb. 10, 2026), <https://www.fool.com/investing/stock-market/market-sectors/communication/media-stocks/big-6/>; Warner Bros. Discovery, *Our Brands*, <https://www.wbd.com/our-brands/> (last visited Aug. 7, 2026).

<sup>5</sup> Paramount ranks sixth in terms of TTM revenue, only trailing Comcast, Walt Disney, Sony, and Netflix. Nathan Reiff, et al., *10 Biggest Entertainment Companies*, INVESTOPEDIA (Jan. 14, 2026), <https://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/020316/worlds-top-10-entertainment-companies-cmsa-cbs.asp>; Paramount, *Brands*, <https://www.paramount.com/about/brands> (last visited Aug. 7, 2026).

<sup>6</sup> Christopher Palmeri, *A Paramount-Warner Bros. Combo Would Add to LA Job Market Woes*, BLOOMBERG (Sept. 12, 2025), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-09-12/a-paramount-warner-bros-combo-would-add-to-la-job-market-woes/>.

<sup>7</sup> David Folkenflik & Clare Lombardo, *Paramount Says It Will Pause Its Warner Acquisition While Legal Challenges Play Out*, NPR (July 24, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/07/24/nx-s1-5906818/paramount-warner-bros-merger-pause-lawsuits>.

acquired CBS, critical news stories have been stalled,<sup>8</sup> interviews have been pushed off the air,<sup>9</sup> and journalists have been pressured to skew reporting about citizen protests in Minneapolis and the cold-blooded killing of Renée Good.<sup>10</sup> Further, it recently came to light that a *60 Minutes* interview, in which Senator Ron Wyden presented evidence that big banks facilitated Jeffrey Epstein's illicit and illegal activities, was pulled by CBS before it aired, and the reporter was fired.<sup>11</sup>

President Trump has made clear he wants both “new ownership as well as changes to CNN programming.”<sup>12</sup> You have eagerly shown the President that you are going to deliver on both counts as if you are controlling organs of state media. You have made public “assurances” that you will “make sweeping changes to CNN,”<sup>13</sup> and it appears clear you are accelerating the ideological clampdown that began at CBS to deliver nothing but favorable and fawning press coverage for President Trump and his allies. You are creating a media environment conducive to the kinds of authoritarian regimes President Trump favors, like those found in Vladimir Putin's Russia, Kim Jong Un's North Korea, or Xi Jinping's China.

The House Committee on the Judiciary is committed to scrutinizing how the antitrust laws are being enforced to promote the public interest; how market power abuses may be harming not only competition but consumers, workers, and the public generally; and whether the federal antitrust agencies are successfully promoting free competition and innovation—or whether they are using their governmental powers to distort the market and undermine freedom of speech and freedom of the press, in violation of the First Amendment.

Given your promise to break your long silence about these dynamics, I am delighted to invite you to participate in a transcribed interview with the Committee to finally answer the questions we have been asking for the past 12 months. You will be given all the time you need to fully express your opinions and provide the Committee factual answers. Please contact Democratic Committee staff no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 26, 2026, to schedule this interview.

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<sup>8</sup> Brad Reed, *Ellison Takeover of CBS 'Unquestionably Aided' White House Epstein Cover-Up: Democratic Senator*, COMMON DREAMS (Aug. 4, 2026), <https://www.commondreams.org/news/ron-wyden-cbs-epstein>.

<sup>9</sup> 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>.

<sup>10</sup> 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>.

<sup>11</sup> Brad Reed, *Ellison Takeover of CBS 'Unquestionably Aided' White House Epstein Cover-Up: Democratic Senator*, COMMON DREAMS (Aug. 4, 2026), <https://www.commondreams.org/news/ron-wyden-cbs-epstein>.

<sup>12</sup> 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>.

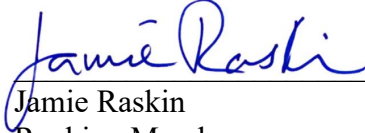
<sup>13</sup> Brian Stelter, *Trump Enters Warner Bros. Fight, Says It's 'Imperative That CNN Be Sold'*, CNN (Dec. 10, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/12/10/media/trump-cnn-sold-paramount-warner-bros-netflix>.

Mr. David Ellison

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,

  
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Jamie Raskin  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman