



March 4, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Justin Riches
Public Records Counsel
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2844
jriches@azleg.gov

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Public Records Officer:

Pursuant to the Arizona Public Records Law, A.R.S. §§ 39-121 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

In a news conference hosted by state lawmakers, Arizona Representative Jake Hoffman called on Governor Doug Ducey to use war powers – including deploying the National Guard and state law enforcement – to address concerns about migrants at the southern border “without regard to immigration laws.”¹ Subsequently, Attorney General Mark Brnovich released a formal legal opinion recognizing the governor’s authority to implement this policy.²

American Oversight seeks records with the potential to shed light on whether and to what extent external entities have influenced Arizona public officials in their consideration of the proposed plan to use war powers to address immigration in Arizona.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your office promptly produce the following records:

All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar invitations, calendar entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material,

¹ Jonathan J. Cooper, *Arizona Lawmakers Urge Ducey to Use War Power at Border*, AP News, Jan. 12, 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/immigration-joe-biden-phoenix-doug-ducey-constitutions-a8e57c51e7bc2bc1dabca98fe8dcb309>.

² Bob Christie, *Arizona AG Says Governor Can Send Armed Troops to Border*, S.F. Chron. (Feb. 7, 2022, 5:13 PM), <https://www.sfchronicle.com/news/article/Arizona-AG-says-governor-can-send-armed-troops-to-16839920.php>.



talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) between (a) Representative Jake Hoffman (jake.hoffman@azleg.gov), or anyone communicating on their behalf such as a Chief of Staff, assistant, or scheduler, and (b) any of the external individuals or entities listed below.

External Entities:

- i. Anyone communicating from America First Legal (including anyone communicating from an email address ending in @aflegal.org)
- ii. Stephen Miller
- iii. Ken Starr
- iv. Mark Meadows
- v. Gene Hamilton
- vi. Matthew Whitaker
- vii. Anyone communicating from America First Policy Institute (including anyone communicating from an email address ending in @americafirstpolicy.com)
- viii. Chad Wolf
- ix. Brooke Rollins
- x. Linda McMahan
- xi. Doug Hoelscher
- xii. Mark Lotter
- xiii. Jessica Hart Steinmann
- xiv. Troup Hemenway
- xv. John Zadrozny
- xvi. Anyone communicating from the Center for Renewing America (including anyone communicating from an email address ending in @americarenewing.com)
- xvii. Ken Cuccinelli (including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from ktc21968@gmail.com)
- xviii. Russ Vought (including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from russ@americarenewing.com)

Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and that this request specifically excludes, the initial mailing of news clips or other mass-distribution emails. However, subsequent communications forwarding such emails are responsive to this request. In other words, for example, if an official received a mass-distribution news clip from America First Policy Institute, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if the official responded to that email with their own commentary, that subsequent message and the complete email chain would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

Please provide all responsive records from October 1, 2021, through the date the search is conducted.

Statement of Noncommercial Purpose

This request is made for noncommercial purposes. American Oversight seeks records regarding communications of Arizona public officials about the proposed policy to use war powers to address concerns about immigration.³ Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the government, including whether and to what extent external entities had a role in shaping immigration policy in Arizona.

Because American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, this request is not in American Oversight's financial interest and is not made for a commercial purpose. American Oversight's mission is to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.⁴

Because this request is made for noncommercial purposes, American Oversight requests that any fees charged in connection with processing this request be limited to copying and postage charges, if applicable.⁵ Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fees.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. For instance, if the request seeks "communications," please search all locations likely to contain communications, including relevant hard-copy files, correspondence files, appropriate locations on hard drives and shared drives, emails, text messages or other direct messaging systems (such as iMessage, WhatsApp, Signal, or Twitter direct messages), voicemail messages, instant messaging systems such as Lync or ICQ, and shared messages systems such as Slack.

³ Christie, *supra* note 2.

⁴ American Oversight currently has approximately 15,700 page likes on Facebook and 117,700 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Feb. 23, 2022); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Feb. 23, 2022).

⁵ A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(1); *see also Hanania v. City of Tucson*, 128 Ariz. 135, 624 P.2d 332 (Ct. App. 1980). Furthermore, because this request is for noncommercial purposes, additional fees provided for under A.R.S. § 39-121.03(A) are not applicable and should not be assessed.

- In conducting your search, please understand the terms “record,” “document,” and “information” in their broadest sense, to include any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind. We seek records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, as well as letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations or discussions.
- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages.
- If any records are withheld in full or in part, pursuant to A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(2), please provide an index of records or categories of records that have been withheld and the reasons the records or categories of records have been withheld.
- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.
- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

Conclusion

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Zachery Morris at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 897-4213.

Sincerely,

/s/ Zachery Morris
Zachery Morris
on behalf of
American Oversight