



July 28, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND ONLINE PORTAL

Laurie Day
Chief, Initial Request Staff
Office of Information Policy
U.S. Department of Justice
1425 New York Avenue NW
Suite 11050
Washington, DC 20530-0001
Online Request via FOIAonline

Hirsh D. Kravitz
FOIA, Records, and E-Discovery Office
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
1100 L Street NW, Room 8020
Washington, DC 20530-0001
Civil.routing.FOIA@usdoj.gov

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Ms. Day:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552 *et seq.* and the implementing regulations of the Department of Justice (DOJ), 28 C.F.R. Part 16, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

On March 20, 2017, American Oversight filed a FOIA request with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) seeking a copy of the portion of the Standard Form 86 (SF-86) prepared for Attorney General Jeff Sessions reflecting his contacts with any official of the Russian Government, as well as certain interview notes prepared during the course of Mr. Sessions's background check. On the evening of July 12, 2017, the FBI withheld in full all records responsive to the request.¹ Then, approximately twelve hours later on the morning of July 13, the FBI produced one responsive record.² American Oversight submits this request to better understand DOJ's processing of the March 20 FOIA and its approach to handling FOIA requests relating to politically sensitive topics more generally.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that DOJ produce the following within twenty business days:

1. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) within the

¹ *Am. Oversight v. U.S. Dep't of Justice*, No. 17-727, ECF No. 10-1 (D.D.C. filed July 12, 2017).

² See Josh Gerstein, *Sessions Releases Questionnaire Excerpt That Omitted Meetings with Russians*, POLITICO (July 13, 2017, 11:04 AM), <http://www.politico.com/blogs/under-the-radar/2017/07/13/jeff-session-doj-questionnaire-240501>.



Office of the Attorney General regarding the processing of American Oversight's FOIA request regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86. (FBI FOIA Tracking Number 1370992-000).

2. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) between (1) the Office of the Attorney General and (2) the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, the Office of Public Affairs, the Civil Division, or the FBI regarding the processing of American Oversight's FOIA request regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86. (FBI FOIA Tracking Number 1370992-000).
3. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) within the Office of the Deputy Attorney General regarding the processing of American Oversight's FOIA request regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86. (FBI FOIA Tracking Number 1370992-000).
4. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) between (1) the Office of the Deputy Attorney General and (2) the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of Public Affairs, the Civil Division, or the FBI regarding the processing of American Oversight's FOIA request regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86. (FBI FOIA Tracking Number 1370992-000).
5. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) within the Office of Public Affairs regarding the processing of American Oversight's FOIA request regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86. (FBI FOIA Tracking Number 1370992-000).
6. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) between (1) the Office of Public Affairs and (2) the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, the Civil Division, or the FBI regarding the processing of American Oversight's FOIA request regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86. (FBI FOIA Tracking Number 1370992-000).
7. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) between (1) the Civil Division and (2) the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, the Office of Public Affairs, or the FBI regarding the processing of American Oversight's FOIA request regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86. (FBI FOIA Tracking Number 1370992-000).

8. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) within the Office of the Attorney General regarding the litigation stemming from American Oversight's FOIA request regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86. (*American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Justice*, No. 17-727 (D.D.C. filed Apr. 19, 2017)).
9. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) between (1) the Office of the Attorney General and (2) the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, the Office of Public Affairs, the Civil Division, or the FBI regarding the litigation stemming from American Oversight's FOIA request regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86. (*American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Justice*, No. 17-727 (D.D.C. filed Apr. 19, 2017)).
10. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) within the Office of the Deputy Attorney General regarding the processing of American Oversight's FOIA request regarding the litigation stemming from American Oversight's FOIA request regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86. (*American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Justice*, No. 17-727 (D.D.C. filed Apr. 19, 2017)).
11. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) between (1) the Office of the Deputy Attorney General and (2) the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of Public Affairs, the Civil Division, or the FBI regarding the processing of American Oversight's FOIA request regarding the litigation stemming from American Oversight's FOIA request regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86. (*American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Justice*, No. 17-727 (D.D.C. filed Apr. 19, 2017)).
12. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) within the Office of Public Affairs regarding the processing of American Oversight's FOIA request regarding the litigation stemming from American Oversight's FOIA request regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86. (*American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Justice*, No. 17-727 (D.D.C. filed Apr. 19, 2017)).
13. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) between (1) the Office of Public Affairs and (2) the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, the Civil Division, or the FBI regarding the processing of American Oversight's FOIA request regarding the litigation stemming from American Oversight's FOIA request regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86. (*American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Justice*, No. 17-727 (D.D.C. filed Apr. 19, 2017)).

14. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) between (1) the Civil Division and (2) the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, the Office of Public Affairs, or the FBI regarding the litigation stemming from American Oversight's FOIA request regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86. (*American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Justice*, No. 17-727 (D.D.C. filed Apr. 19, 2017)).
15. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) within the Office of the Attorney General regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86.
16. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) between (1) the Office of the Attorney General and (2) the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, the Office of Public Affairs, the Civil Division, or the FBI regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86.
17. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) within the Office of the Deputy Attorney General regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86.
18. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) between (1) the Office of the Deputy Attorney General and (2) the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of Public Affairs, the Civil Division, or the FBI regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86.
19. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) within the Office of Public Affairs regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86.
20. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) between (1) the Office of Public Affairs and (2) the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, the Civil Division, or the FBI regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86.
21. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, calendar entries, meeting agendas, or any other records reflecting communications) between (1) the Civil Division and (2) the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, the Office of Public Affairs, or the FBI regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86.

22. All records reflecting communications (including emails, telephone call logs, or any other records reflecting communications) between the Office of Public Affairs and any member of the media regarding (a) American Oversight's FOIA request regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86, (b) the litigation stemming from American Oversight's FOIA request regarding Attorney General Sessions's SF-86, or (c) Attorney General Sessions's SF-86.

Please provide all responsive records from July 12, 2017, through July 13, 2017. For Item 22, please also provide all responsive records from May 23, 2017 through May 25, 2017.

In addition to the records requested above, American Oversight also requests records describing the processing of this request, including records sufficient to identify search terms used and locations and custodians searched and any tracking sheets used to track the processing of this request. If DOJ uses FOIA questionnaires or certifications completed by individual custodians or components to determine whether they possess responsive materials or to describe how they conducted searches, we also request any such records prepared in connection with the processing of this request.

American Oversight seeks all responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. 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 includes any attachments to these records. **No category of material should be omitted from search, collection, and production.**

Please search all records regarding agency business. **You may not exclude searches of files or emails in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts.** Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files is subject to the Federal Records Act and FOIA.³ **It is not adequate to rely on policies and procedures that require officials to move such information to official systems within a certain period of time; American Oversight has a right to records contained in those files even if material has not yet been moved to official systems or if officials have, through negligence or willfulness, failed to meet their obligations.**⁴

³ See *Competitive Enter. Inst. v. Office of Sci. & Tech. Policy*, 827 F.3d 145, 149-50 (D.C. Cir. 2016); cf. *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Kerry*, 844 F.3d 952, 955-56 (D.C. Cir. 2016).

⁴ See *Competitive Enter. Inst. v. Office of Sci. & Tech. Policy*, No. 14-cv-765, slip op. at 8 (D.D.C. Dec. 12, 2016) ("The Government argues that because the agency had a policy requiring [the official] to forward all of his emails from his [personal] account to his business email, the [personal] account only contains duplicate agency records at best. Therefore, the Government claims that any hypothetical deletion of the [personal account] emails would still leave a copy of those records intact in [the official's] work email. However, policies are rarely followed to

In addition, please note that in conducting a “reasonable search” as required by law, you must employ the most up-to-date technologies and tools available, in addition to searches by individual custodians likely to have responsive information. Recent technology may have rendered DOJ’s prior FOIA practices unreasonable. **In light of the government-wide requirements to manage information electronically by the end of 2016, it is no longer reasonable to rely exclusively on custodian-driven searches.**⁵ Furthermore, agencies that have adopted the National Archives and Records Agency (NARA) Capstone program, or similar policies, now maintain emails in a form that is reasonably likely to be more complete than individual custodians’ files. For example, a custodian may have deleted a responsive email from his or her email program, but DOJ’s archiving tools would capture that email under Capstone. Accordingly, American Oversight insists that DOJ use the most up-to-date technologies to search for responsive information and take steps to ensure that the most complete repositories of information are searched. American Oversight is available to work with you to craft appropriate search terms. **However, custodian searches are still required; agencies may not have direct access to files stored in .PST files, outside of network drives, in paper format, or in personal email accounts.**

Under the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, agencies must adopt a presumption of disclosure, withholding information “only if . . . disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption” or “disclosure is prohibited by law.”⁶ If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure, American Oversight requests that you provide an index of those documents as required under *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973), *cert. denied*, 415 U.S. 977 (1974). As you are aware, a *Vaughn* index must describe each document claimed as exempt with sufficient specificity “to permit a reasoned judgment as to whether the material is actually exempt under FOIA.”⁷ Moreover, the *Vaughn* index “must describe *each* document or portion thereof withheld, and for *each* withholding it must discuss the consequences of disclosing the sought-after information.”⁸ Further, “the withholding agency must supply ‘a relatively detailed justification, specifically identifying the reasons why a particular exemption is relevant and correlating those claims with the particular part of a withheld document to which they apply.’”⁹

perfection by anyone. At this stage of the case, the Court cannot assume that each and every work related email in the [personal] account was duplicated in [the official’s] work email account.” (citations omitted)).

⁵ Presidential Memorandum—Managing Government Records, 76 Fed. Reg. 75,423 (Nov. 28, 2011), <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/28/presidential-memorandum-managing-government-records>; Office of Mgmt. & Budget, Exec. Office of the President, Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments & Independent Agencies, “Managing Government Records Directive,” M-12-18 (Aug. 24, 2012), <https://www.archives.gov/files/records-mgmt/m-12-18.pdf>.

⁶ FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 § 2 (Pub. L. No. 114-185).

⁷ *Founding Church of Scientology v. Bell*, 603 F.2d 945, 949 (D.C. Cir. 1979).

⁸ *King v. U.S. Dep’t of Justice*, 830 F.2d 210, 223–24 (D.C. Cir. 1987) (emphasis in original).

⁹ *Id.* at 224 (citing *Mead Data Central, Inc. v. U.S. Dep’t of the Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 251 (D.C. Cir. 1977)).

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 it is your position that a document contains non-exempt segments, but that those non-exempt segments are so dispersed throughout the document as to make segregation impossible, please state what portion of the document is non-exempt, and how the material is dispersed throughout the document.¹⁰ Claims of nonsegregability must be made with the same degree of detail as required for claims of exemptions in a *Vaughn* index. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically that it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.

You should institute a preservation hold on information responsive to this request. American Oversight intends to pursue all legal avenues to enforce its right of access under FOIA, including litigation if necessary. Accordingly, DOJ is on notice that litigation is reasonably foreseeable.

To ensure that this request is properly construed, that searches are conducted in an adequate but efficient manner, and that extraneous costs are not incurred, 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 DOJ can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in electronic format by email or in PDF or TIF 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 rolling basis.

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and 28 C.F.R. § 16.10(k), American Oversight requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. The subject of this request concerns the operations of the federal government, and the disclosures will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by the general public in a significant way.¹¹ Moreover, the request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes.¹²

American Oversight requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information is “in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding” of government operations and activities.¹³ The processing of FOIA requests is a government activity that is core to the statute’s commitment to apolitical transparency. Records responsive to this FOIA request would illuminate for American Oversight and the general public how the government navigates FOIA processing when the subject of the request is of intense public interest

¹⁰ *Mead Data Central*, 566 F.2d at 261.

¹¹ 28 C.F.R. § 16.10(k)(1).

¹² *Id.*

¹³ 28 C.F.R. § 16.10(k)(1), (2)(i)-(ii).

or is politically sensitive.¹⁴ Disclosure of the requested information is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of how the public's FOIA requests are processed, and how

¹⁴ See, e.g., Julia Edwards Ainsley, *Sessions Releases Heavily Redacted Record of Foreign Contacts*, REUTERS (July 13, 2017, 11:45 AM), <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-russia-sessions-idUSKBN19Y1ZT>; Kelly Cohen & Melissa Quinn, *DOJ Releases Sessions Security Clearance Application Indicating No Contacts with Foreign Governments*, WASH. EXAM'R (July 13, 2017, 10:27 AM), <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/doj-releases-sessions-security-clearance-application-indicating-no-contacts-with-foreign-governments/article/2628516>; *DOJ Issues Mostly Blank Form Detailing Sessions' Russia Contacts*, DAILY BEAST, July 13, 2017, <http://www.thedailybeast.com/doj-defies-court-order-to-release-sessions-russian-contacts>; Editorial Board, *EDITORIAL: Bad Examples from DOJ*, YORK DISPATCH (July 18, 2017, 4:02 PM), <http://www.yorkdispatch.com/story/opinion/2017/07/18/editorial-bad-examples-doj/489135001/>; Gerstein, *supra* note 2; Andrew M. Harris, *DOJ Withholds Parts of Sessions's Background Check Form*, BLOOMBERG POLITICS (July 13, 2017, 1:01 PM), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-07-13/doj-turnover-of-sessions-background-check-form-raises-questions>; *Sessions Niega Contactos con Funcionarios de Otros Países*, HOY (July 13, 2017, 9:35 AM), <http://www.hoylosangeles.com/efe-3325122-13183250-20170713-story.html>; Mary Clare Jalonick & Eric Tucker, *Trump: Son's Russia Meeting 'Standard Campaign Practice'*, MYSA (July 14, 2017, 3:54 AM), <http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/politics/article/Blacked-out-page-of-Sessions-security-clearance-11286240.php>; Laura Jarrett & David Shortell, *DOJ Releases Portion of Sessions' Security Clearance Form Sought in FOIA Lawsuit*, CNNPOLITICS (July 13, 2017, 5:47 PM), <http://www.cnn.com/2017/07/13/politics/jeff-sessions-security-clearance-form/index.html>; Mark Katkov & James Doubek, *Justice Department Releases Sessions' Disclosure Form, a Day Late*, NPR (July 13, 2017, 2:00 PM), <http://www.npr.org/sections/twotwo-way/2017/07/13/536982193/justice-department-defies-court-deadline-to-release-sessions-contacts-with-russi>; Howard Koplowitz, *Jeff Sessions Releases Highly Redacted Security Clearance Form*, AL.COM (July 13, 2017, 2:11 PM), http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2017/07/jeff_sessions_releases_highly.html; Nicole Lafond, *DOJ Releases 'Heavily Redacted' Sessions Security Clearance Form*, TPM (July 13, 2017, 11:03 AM), <http://talkingpointsmemo.com/livewire/doj-misses-deadline-releases-heavily-redacted-security-form>; Ellen Nakashima, *Justice Department Releases Portion of Sessions Security Clearance Form Claiming No Contacts with Foreign Officials*, WASH. POST, July 13, 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/justice-department-releases-portion-of-sessions-security-clearance-form-claiming-no-contacts-with-foreign-officials/2017/07/13/b52d607e-67d4-11e7-9928-22d00a47778f_story.html?utm_term=.783980f43ebe; Alan Neuhauser, *DOJ Releases Security Form Confirming Sessions Did Not Disclose Russia Contacts*, U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT (July 13, 2017, 12:10 PM), <https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2017-07-13/justice-department-releases-security-form-confirming-sessions-did-not-disclose-russia-contacts>; Leon Neyfakh, *Jeff Sessions Has a Good Excuse for Not Disclosing His Russia Meetings. Jared Kushner Doesn't.*, SLATE (July 14, 2017, 4:16 PM), http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2017/07/jeff_sessions_has_a_good_excuse_for_not_disclosing_his_russia_meetings_jared.html; Meghan O'Dea, *The Department of Justice Missed a Deadline to Turn Over Documents Detailing Jeff Sessions' Contacts with Russians*, UPROXX, July 13, 2017, <http://uproxx.com/news/jeff-sessions-russia-contacts-doj->

agency decisionmaking proceeds on high-profile or politically sensitive FOIA requests. American Oversight is committed to transparency and makes the responses agencies provide in response to FOIA requests publicly available. As noted, the subject of this request is a matter of public interest, and American Oversight would make these records publicly available to other FOIA requesters.

This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes.¹⁵ As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, American Oversight does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in American Oversight's financial interest. 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 our public website and promote their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.¹⁶ American Oversight has demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content. For example, after receiving records regarding an ethics waiver received by a senior DOJ attorney, American Oversight promptly posted the records to its website¹⁷ and published an analysis of what the records reflected about DOJ's process for ethics waivers.¹⁸ Additionally, American Oversight has a project called "Audit the Wall," where the

[deadline/](#); Manu Raju & Evan Perez, *First on CNN: AG Sessions Did Not Disclose Russia Meetings in Security Clearance Form, DOJ Says*, CNNPOLITICS (May 25, 2017, 9:53 PM), <http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/24/politics/jeff-sessions-russian-officials-meetings/index.html>; Reuters, *Sessions Releases Redacted Foreign Contact Record*, AMERICANOW, July 13, 2017, <http://www.americanow.com/story/politics/2017/07/13/sessions-releases-redacted-foreign-contact-record>; Rebecca Savransky, *DOJ Misses Deadline to Provide Sessions's Contacts with Russians: Report*, THE HILL (July 13, 2017, 8:35 AM), <http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/341813-doj-misses-deadline-to-provide-sessionss-contacts-with-russians>; Cogan Schneier, *Hemming and Hawing, US DOJ Coughs Up Sessions' Foreign-Contact Form*, NAT'L L. J., July 13, 2017, <http://www.nationallawjournal.com/id=1202792914127/Hemming-and-Hawing-US-DOJ-Coughs-Up-Sessions-ForeignContact-Form>; Adam Serwer, *Jeff Sessions Claimed He Never Met Foreign Officials on a Key Security Form*, THE ATLANTIC, July 13, 2017, <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/07/jeff-sessions-claimed-he-never-met-foreign-officials-on-a-key-security-form/533538/>; Erin Tiernan, *DOJ Provides Court-Ordered Disclosure on Jeff Sessions' Russia Contacts a Day Late*, METRO, July 13, 2017, <http://www.metro.us/news/politics/jeff-sessions-russia-contacts-day-late>.

¹⁵ 28 C.F.R. § 16.10(k)(1), (2)(iii).

¹⁶ American Oversight currently has approximately 11,200 page likes on Facebook, and 33,500 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, FACEBOOK, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited July 28, 2017); American Oversight (@weareoversight), TWITTER, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited July 28, 2017).

¹⁷ *Vetting the Nominees: Solicitor General Nominee Noel Francisco*, AMERICAN OVERSIGHT, <https://www.americanoversight.org/our-actions/vetting-nominees-solicitor-general-nominee-noel-francisco>.

¹⁸ *Francisco & the Travel Ban: What We Learned from the DOJ Documents*, AMERICAN OVERSIGHT, <https://www.americanoversight.org/news/francisco-travel-ban-learned-doj-documents>.

organization is gathering and analyzing information and commenting on public releases of information related to the administration's proposed construction of a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border.¹⁹

Accordingly, American Oversight qualifies for a fee waiver.

Conclusion

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with DOJ on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, have any questions, or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please contact Cerissa Cafasso at foia@americanoversight.org or 202.869.5246. Also, if American Oversight's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making such a determination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Austin R. Evers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Austin R. Evers
Executive Director
American Oversight

¹⁹ *Audit the Wall*, AMERICAN OVERSIGHT, www.auditthewall.org.