



March 3, 2025

**VIA Electronic Delivery**

Office of Management and Budget  
FOIA Officer  
725 17th Street NW, Room 9272  
Washington, DC 20503  
Via X.com message

U.S. DOGE (or Digital) Service  
736 Jackson Pl NW  
Washington, DC 20503  
Via X.com message

**Re: Freedom of Information Action Request**

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. §§ 552, Democracy Forward Foundation submits this request for records.

***Records Requested***

Democracy Forward Foundation (“DF”) requests that the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) and its component U.S. DOGE (or Digital) Service (“USDS”) produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

All electronic communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, calendar invitation attachments, text messages, or messages on messaging platforms, including Slack and Microsoft Teams) sent or received by the government employees listed below (A) containing any of the following key terms (B).

- A. Government employees
  - 1. Christopher Stanley
  - 2. Stephen Duarte
  - 3. Christina Hanna
  - 4. Greg Hogan
  - 5. Bryanne-Michelle Mlodzianowski
  - 6. Kyle Schutt

7. Ethan Shaotran
8. Jordan Wick
9. Anthony Armstrong
10. Brian Bjelde
11. Nate Cavanaugh
12. Steve Davis
13. Marko Elez
14. Luke Farritor
15. Gautier “Cole” Killian
16. Ed Coristine
17. Alexandra Beynon
18. Gavin Kliger
19. Akash Bobba
20. Nikhil Rajpal
21. Thomas Shedd
22. Ricardo Biasini

B. Key terms

1. “Large language model”
2. LLM
3. “Machine learning”
4. “Natural language processing”
5. NLP
6. surveil
7. surveillance
8. “AI-driven system”
9. “AI-driven strategy”
10. “AI-driven strategies”
11. ADS
12. “Automated decision-making technology”
13. ADMT
14. “Automated process”
15. “Automated processes”
16. “Automated processing”
17. “Neural network”
18. “Machine learning”
19. Chatbot
20. Grok
21. xAI
22. ChatGPT
23. Gemini

24. “Generative AI”
25. Azure
26. Watson
27. AutoRIF
28. “Automated Reduction in Force”
29. “Automated Reduction-in-Force”
30. “Department of Government Efficiency AI Assistant”

This request seeks records from January 20, 2025 until the date of the search.

### **Request for Fee Waiver**

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and 39 C.F.R. § 265.9, DFF requests a waiver of all fees associated with processing records for this request. FOIA requires documents to be furnished to requesters at no fee or reduced fees “if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A).

In determining whether a fee waiver is appropriate, courts consider whether a requester has a “demonstrated . . . ability to disseminate the requested information,” *Cause of Action v. F.T.C.*, 799 F.3d 1108, 1116-17 (D.C. Cir. 2015), and whether the requester regularly disseminates records obtained through FOIA to “a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject” of its work. *Carney v. U.S. Dep’t of Justice*, 19 F.3d 807, 814-15 (2d Cir. 1994). FOIA does not require a requester to describe exactly how it intends to disseminate the information requested, as that would require “pointless specificity”; all that is necessary is for a requester to adequately demonstrate its “ability to publicize disclosed information.” *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Rossotti*, 326 F.3d 1309, 1314 (D.C. Cir. 2003). In evaluating a fee waiver request, courts consider how a requester actually communicates information collected through FOIA to the public, including press releases or a website where documents received are made available, *see id.*, or whether the requester has a history of “contacts with any major news[] companies” that suggest an ability to disseminate materials of interest through the press. *Larson v. C.I.A.*, 843 F.2d 1481, 1483 (D.C. Cir. 1988) (upholding a denial of a fee waiver to a requester who had failed to identify his relationships with newspaper companies that could disseminate documents).

The requested waiver is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information sought primarily benefits the general public. Democracy Forward has a demonstrated ability to disseminate information of public interest requested through freedom of information statutes, and, based upon responses to this request, may assist in publicizing records received to contribute to the public’s understanding of the use of novel technological tools for government

personnel matters, as significant questions abound concerning their reliability. Indeed, records received by Democracy Forward have previously formed the basis of news reports.<sup>1</sup>

Democracy Forward is not filing this request to further any commercial interest, and any information obtained by Democracy Forward as a result of this request and disclosed will be disclosed at no cost.

If the request for a waiver is denied, we are willing to pay all reasonable fees incurred for searching and duplicating records in responding to this request, up to \$50. If the costs of

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Alexander Nazaryan, *Why did right-wing troll Charles C. Johnson meet with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross?*, Yahoo News (May 14, 2019), <https://news.yahoo.com/why-did-rightwing-troll-charles-c-johnson-want-to-meet-with-commerce-secretary-wilbur-ross-090000636.html>; Derek Kravitz and Jack Gillum, *"Happy to Do It": Emails Show Current FAA Chief Coordinated With Ex-Lobbyist Colleagues on Policy*, ProPublica (Mar. 27, 2019), <https://www.propublica.org/article/dan-elwell-current-faa-chief-coordinated-with-ex-lobbyist-colleagues-on-policy>; Hamid Aleaziz, *Emails Show US Border Officials Didn't Receive "Zero Tolerance" Guidance Until After the Policy Was Enacted*, BuzzFeed News (Feb. 28, 2019), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hamedaleaziz/zero-tolerance-policy-guidance-dhs-family-separation>; Jonathan Cohn and Jeffrey Young, *Emails Show Trump Administration Was Told Obamacare Ad Cuts Could Hurt Enrollment*, Huffpost (Dec. 17, 2018), [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-verma-obamacare-advertising-cut\\_us\\_5c115061e4b084b082ff8dba](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-verma-obamacare-advertising-cut_us_5c115061e4b084b082ff8dba); Madison Pauly, *When the Biggest Prison Company Complained About a California Sanctuary Law, ICE Listened*, Mother Jones (Dec. 7, 2018), <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/12/geo-memo-private-prison-california-immigration/>; Eliza Rellman, *'Just answer the question and kill this story': In internal emails, Heather Nauert criticized Rex Tillerson's refusal to deny reports that he called Trump a 'moron'*, Business Insider (Nov. 2, 2018), <https://www.businessinsider.com/heather-nauert-rex-tillerson-trump-moron-2018-11>; Rebecca Klein, *Lawsuit Accuses Betsy DeVos And Her Deputies Of Being Motivated By Sexism*, HuffPost (Oct. 31, 2018), [https://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/us\\_5bd9ff6ee4b01abe6a1ad4a9](https://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/us_5bd9ff6ee4b01abe6a1ad4a9); Nick Penzenstadler, *A year after Vegas shooting, ATF emails reveal blame, alarm over bump stocks*, USA Today (Oct. 1, 2018), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/10/01/year-after-vegas-shooting-atf-emails-reveal-blame-alarm-over-bump-stocks/1432137002/>; Jessica Kwong, *Ivanka Trump was more than complicit in Obama equal pay rollback-she had a hand in it, watchdog alleges*, Newsweek (Aug. 29, 2018), <https://www.newsweek.com/ivanka-trump-equal-pay-complicit-obama-1093833>; Vera Bergengruen, *New Emails Show What Happens When The Pentagon Has To Scramble To Catch Up To Trump*, BuzzFeed News (July 25, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/verabergengruen/these-emails-show-what-happens-when-the-white-house-keeps>; Erin Dooley, *Exclusive: Former for-profit college executive shaped Education Department policy that could benefit former employers: Documents*, ABC News (May 15, 2017), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/exclusive-profit-college-executive-shaped-education-department-policy/story?id=55108981>; Heidi Przybyla, *Notes, emails reveal Trump appointees' war to end HHS teen pregnancy program*, NBC News (Mar. 20, 2018), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/notes-emails-reveal-trump-appointees-war-end-hhs-teen-pregnancy-n857686>; Dominic Holden, *Documents Show The Trump Administration Approved Bump Stocks Before It Opposed Them*, BuzzFeed News (Mar. 22, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/dominicholden/trump-administration-bump-stocks>; Bernard Condon, *Trump Advisor Denies He Cheered End of Tunnel Funding Deal*, Associated Press (Feb. 13, 2018), available at <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2018-02-13/trump-adviser-denies-he-cheered-end-of-tunnel-funding-deal>; Celeste Katz, *Interior Department tapped wildfire preparedness funds for Ryan Zinke helicopter tour*, Newsweek (Dec. 29, 2017), <https://www.newsweek.com/ryan-zinke-interior-department-helicopters-wildfires-757857>.

responding to this request should exceed that amount, please contact us before incurring costs exceeding that amount.

***Conclusion***

If you need clarification as to the scope of the request, have any questions, or foresee any obstacles to releasing fully the requested records within 20 business days, please contact me as soon as possible at [foia@democracyforward.org](mailto:foia@democracyforward.org).

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Skye Perryman

Skye Perryman

President & CEO

Democracy Forward Foundation

P.O. Box 34553

Washington, D.C. 20043



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FOIA Officer  
725 17th Street NW, Room 9272  
Washington, DC 20503  
Via X.com message

U.S. DOGE (or Digital) Service  
736 Jackson Pl NW  
Washington, DC 20503  
Via X.com message

Department of Education  
Office of the Secretary  
400 Maryland Ave., SW, LBJ 7W104  
Washington, DC 20202-4500  
Attn: FOIA Service Center  
[EDFOIAManager@ed.gov](mailto:EDFOIAManager@ed.gov)

Department of the Treasury  
FOIA Request  
Washington, DC 20220  
[FOIA@treasury.gov](mailto:FOIA@treasury.gov)

Department of State  
The Secretary's Open Forum  
S/OF, Rm. 5312A

2201 C St NW.  
Washington, DC 20520  
Via online portal

U.S. Agency for International Development  
M/MS/IRD, Suite 2.4.0A, USAID Annex  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20523-2701  
Via online portal

General Services Administration  
FOIA Requester Service Center (LG)  
1800 F Street, NW, 7308  
Washington, DC 20405-0001  
Via online portal

Office of Personnel Management  
1900 E Street, N.W.  
OPIM/FOIA Room 5H35  
Washington, D.C. 20415-7900\*  
[foia@opm.gov](mailto:foia@opm.gov)

Department of Defense  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon,  
Washington, DC 20301-1000  
Via online portal

**Re: Freedom of Information Action Request**

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. §§ 552, Democracy Forward Foundation submits this request for records.

DF-MULTI-25-0387-0395

## ***Records Requested***

Democracy Forward Foundation (“DFF”) requests that your agency produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

All outputs, recommendations, or reports generated by generative artificial intelligence tools used for personnel matters (including, but not limited to, determining who to hire and fire, assessing the productivity or the ideological or partisan opinions of federal employees, investigating who has spoken or might be likely to speak to the media about government work, or surveilling employees).

This request seeks records from January 20, 2025 until the date of the search.

## **Request for Fee Waiver**

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disseminate information of public interest requested through freedom of information statutes, and, based upon responses to this request, may assist in publicizing records received to contribute to the public's understanding of the use of novel technological tools for government personnel matters, as significant questions abound concerning their reliability. Indeed, records received by Democracy Forward have previously formed the basis of news reports.<sup>1</sup>

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If the request for a waiver is denied, we are willing to pay all reasonable fees incurred for searching and duplicating records in responding to this request, up to \$50. If the costs of responding to this request should exceed that amount, please contact us before incurring costs exceeding that amount.

***Conclusion***

If you need clarification as to the scope of the request, have any questions, or foresee any obstacles to releasing fully the requested records within 20 business days, please contact me as soon as possible at [foia@democracyforward.org](mailto:foia@democracyforward.org).

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Skye Perryman

Skye Perryman  
President & CEO  
Democracy Forward Foundation  
P.O. Box 34553  
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Department of Education  
Office of the Secretary  
400 Maryland Ave., SW, LBJ 7W104  
Washington, DC 20202-4500  
Attn: FOIA Service Center  
[EDFOIAManager@ed.gov](mailto:EDFOIAManager@ed.gov)

Department of the Treasury  
FOIA Request  
Washington, DC 20220  
[FOIA@treasury.gov](mailto:FOIA@treasury.gov)

Department of State  
The Secretary's Open Forum  
S/OF, Rm. 5312A  
2201 C St NW.

Washington, DC 20520  
Via online portal

U.S. Agency for International Development  
M/MS/IRD, Suite 2.4.0A, USAID Annex  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20523-2701  
Via online portal

General Services Administration  
FOIA Requester Service Center (LG)  
1800 F Street, NW, 7308  
Washington, DC 20405-0001  
Via online portal

Office of Personnel Management  
1900 E Street, N.W.  
OPIM/FOIA Room 5H35  
Washington, D.C. 20415-7900\*  
[foia@opm.gov](mailto:foia@opm.gov)

Department of Defense  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon,  
Washington, DC 20301-1000  
Via online portal

**Re: Freedom of Information Action Request**

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. §§ 552, Democracy Forward

DF-MULTI-25-0378-0386

Foundation submits this request for records.

### ***Records Requested***

Democracy Forward Foundation (“DFF”) requests that your agency produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

1. All validation studies and privacy impact assessments related to the use of automated systems or generative artificial intelligence for personnel matters (including, but not limited to, determining who to hire and fire, assessing the productivity or the ideological or partisan opinions of federal employees, investigating who has spoken or might be likely to speak to the media about government work, or surveilling employees).
2. All final guidance, memoranda, or directives created by your agency related to the usage of automated systems or generative artificial intelligence for personnel matters (including, but not limited to, determining who to hire and fire, assessing the productivity or the ideological or partisan opinions of federal employees, investigating who has spoken or might be likely to speak to the media about government work, or surveilling employees).
3. All source code, training materials, or parameters given to or used by automated systems or generative artificial intelligence tools used for personnel matters (including, but not limited to, determining who to hire and fire, assessing the productivity or the ideological or partisan opinions of federal employees, investigating who has spoken or might be likely to speak to the media about government work, or surveilling employees).
4. All searches, instructions, queries, or inputs into automated systems or generative artificial intelligence tools used for personnel matters (including, but not limited to, determining who to hire and fire, assessing the productivity or the ideological or partisan opinions of federal employees, investigating who has spoken or might be likely to speak to the media about government work, or surveilling employees).

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### **Request for Fee Waiver**

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We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Skye Perryman

Skye Perryman

President & CEO

Democracy Forward Foundation

P.O. Box 34553

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