



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2026

The Honorable Donald Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

President Trump:

We write to demand information related to the production of the television advertisement, first aired on Fox News the evening of Wednesday, September 23, bearing the disclaimer: “Paid for by the U.S. Government.”¹ The purpose of this advertisement is clear—an ego-stroking effort by your Administration to divert attention from your decaying political popularity and power. Unsurprisingly, your colleagues chose to run this 30-second spot on a network that as a matter of policy avoids criticizing you,² and which consequently you watch obsessively.³ That the advertisement features expressly unauthorized audio of an R&B artist repeatedly singing “love me” over your image painfully—and embarrassingly—drives this point home.⁴ And while this advertisement fits within your Administration’s deeply un-American pattern of disseminating political propaganda using government resources,⁵ the American public will not miss the irony that the supposed leader of the free world chose to run this televised slop the very week the authoritarian President of China visited the United States.

Troublingly, however, this advertisement indicates a potential significant misuse of taxpayer funds and federal government resources for what appears to be political advertising. Given the proximity to the November midterm elections, this advertisement—and the circumstances surrounding its development and production—warrants an immediate investigation. Federal funds may be spent only for purposes authorized by Congress.⁶ The advertisement’s disclaimer explicitly indicated that taxpayer dollars were used in its production and dissemination—a broadcast that was partisan in nature and designed to advance your political interests—and the Administration must immediately and publicly identify the legal authority for that expenditure. In fact, without further information, serious questions arise as to whether criminal

¹ Ewan Palmer, *Trump’s Insane ‘Love Me’ Ad Comes With Shocking Disclaimer*, DAILY BEAST (Sept. 24, 2026), <https://www.thedailybeast.com/trumps-insane-love-me-ad-comes-with-shocking-disclaimer/>.

² David Bauder, Records released in Fox defamation suit show pressures on network’s journalists, PBS News (Mar. 11, 2023), <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/records-released-in-fox-defamation-suit-show-pressures-on-networks-journalists>.

³ Brandon Carter, *Trump watches up to eight hours of TV per day: report*, THE HILL (Dec. 9, 2017), <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/364094-trump-watches-at-least-four-hours-of-tv-per-day-report/>.

⁴ Erkki Forster, *R&B Singer Attacks Trump for Using Hit Song in Campaign Ad*, DAILY BEAST (Sept. 24, 2026), <https://www.thedailybeast.com/obsessed/rb-singer-jmsn-attacks-trump-for-using-hit-song-in-campaign-ad/>.

⁵ This includes a \$220 million public relations campaign undertaken by the Department of Homeland Security in aid of then-Secretary Kristi Noem’s personal popularity, and the use of departmental social media accounts to rehabilitate the President’s weak image and stoke conspiracy theories. See Justin Elliot et al., *Firm Tied to Kristi Noem Secretly Got Money From \$220 Million DHS Ad Contracts*, PROPUBLICA (Nov. 14, 2025), <https://www.propublica.org/article/kristi-noem-dhs-ad-campaign-strategy-group>; U.S. Dep’t of Labor (@USDOL), X (Jan. 8, 2026), <https://x.com/USDOL/status/2009391453181759637>.

⁶ 31 U.S.C. § 1301.

liability may attach to any individual or individuals who knowingly misused government resources in the production of this advertisement.⁷

Further, this advertisement—which features you prominently and incorporates explicitly political (and, incidentally, inaccurate) material—raises questions under the Federal Election Campaign Act and applicable Federal Election Commission rules concerning electioneering and the misuse of government resources in connection with federal elections.

The advertisement—or, more accurately, the idolatrous propaganda reminiscent of North Korea—identifies the United States government as its sponsor. The public, therefore, has a right to know:

- 1) whether any federal agency or office authorized and paid for the advertisement and if so, which one;
- 2) where the advertisement was written and developed—specifically whether any part of the advertisement was produced on government property or with government resources;
- 3) the specific appropriation and statutory authority used to fund and justify the advertisement;
- 4) what person or persons individually authorized and approved the advertisement’s development and content; and
- 5) what, if any, legal review of relevant federal statutes was conducted before it was broadcast.

Regardless of the taxpayer resources expended by your Administration, every dollar spent on this embarrassing display of vanity is a dollar that was not spent addressing the crushing cost of living crisis you have wrought on the American public. Abroad, your weakness and abdication of leadership have led to a loss of American lives and treasure in a widening conflict in Iran; at home, your decisions have toppled the United States into the worst economic catastrophe since the Great Recession. Despite these growing crises this, apparently, is your Administration’s priority—airing fawning, celebrity-worshipping propaganda on Fox News to help you feel better about your cascading failures.

The President of the United States already has broad latitude to speak publicly and advocate for his or her policies. Neither you nor your unnamed ideological apparatchiks, however, have the power to funnel taxpayer-funded government resources toward a political advertisement. Such behavior deepens the American people’s preexisting fury at your Administration’s rampant corruption and injures the civic health of our nation. While federal law already limits the ability of the White House to produce advertisements of this nature, it may be that Congress must consider what further legislation is needed to strengthen these guardrails to ensure that no future president—no matter how personally insecure—is able to abuse taxpayer resources as you have.

To help restore the crumbling faith of our fellow citizens in this government, we demand that you immediately cease airing the advertisement. We look forward the production of the information requested above no later than October 7, 2026. Thank you.

⁷ 18 U.S.C. § 641.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Morelle
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration



Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations



Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

cc: The Honorable Bryan Steil, Chairman
Committee on House Administration

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable James Comer, Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Susan Wiles, Chief of Staff
The White House

The Honorable Russell T. Vought, Director
Office of Management and Budget