Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

August 8, 2024

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

Via email: foia@americanoversight.org

Re: HQ-2020-00531-F

Dear Ms. Sloan:

This is a final response to the request for information you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. You requested:

> 1. All email communications (email messages, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) sent by (1) anyone serving in the capacity of White House Liaison or White House Advisor (including anyone serving as their Chiefs of Staff or Deputies) to (2) anyone with an email address ending in .com / .net / .org / .edu / .mail / .us. American Oversight has limited its request to sent messages of the specified agency officials to reduce the volume of potentially responsive records. American Oversight still requests complete email chains. So, for example, if the White House Liaison sent a response to an incoming message from an email address specified above, the email chain containing the initially received message and the response is responsive to this request. Please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2019, through the date the search is conducted.
>
> 2. 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, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) of (1) anyone serving in the capacity of White House Liaison or White House Advisor (including anyone serving as their Chiefs of Staff or Deputies) with or about (2) any of the below specified external entities or individuals: I. Virginia "Ginni" Thomas or any person communicating on her behalf such as Crystal Clayton ii. Barbara Ledeen or any person communicating on her behalf
> iii. Becky Norton Dunlop or any person communicating on her behalf Please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2019, through the date the search is conducted.
>
> 3. All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google

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Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar invitations, calendar entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) between (1) any political appointees* in the immediate front Office of the Secretary (or the senior-most official at your agency) as well as anyone serving in the capacity of White House Liaison or White House Advisor (including anyone serving as their Chiefs of Staff or Deputies) and (2) John. McEntee, head of the Presidential Personnel Office at the White House, or anyone communicating on his behalf. Please provide all responsive records from February 1, 2020, through the date the search is conducted. *"Political appointee" should be understood as any person who is a Presidential Appointee with Senate Confirmation (PAS), a Presidential Appointee (PA), a Non-career SES, any Schedule C employees, or any persons hired under Temporary Non-career SES Appointments, Limited Term SES Appointments, or Temporary Transitional Schedule C Appointments.

4. All records reflecting the content of a meeting between (1) anyone serving in the capacity of White House Liaison or White House Advisor (including anyone serving as their Chiefs of Staff or Deputies) and (2) John McEntee, head of the Presidential Personnel Office at the White House, on or about February 20, 2020, including any calendar entries, emails.

In a March 6, 2020, email with Andrew Ferencevych, formerly of my office, you agreed to modify your search terms to better assist us with searching for the documents responsive to your request. You agreed to:

1. Limit the search for part one of your request to Joseph Uddo and Jonathan Wetzel.

2. Limit searches to messaging tech used including Skype.

3. Limit the political appointees in part 3 of your request to Secretary Dan Bouillotte, Emily Singer, Noelle Spencer, Matthew Johnson, James Colgary, and Alexa Turner.

4. Limit those communicating on John McEntee's behalf to James Bacon and Brian Nieves in parts 3 and 4 of your request.

Your request was assigned to DOE's Office of the Executive Secretariat (ES) to conduct a search of its files for responsive records. ES started its search on April 22, 2020, which is the cut-off date for responsive records. ES completed its search and located seven (7) documents responsive to your request. The documents are being provided to you as described in the accompanying index. Upon review, DOE has determined that certain information contained within the records should be withheld pursuant to Exemptions 4 and 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §§ 552 (b)(4) and (b)(6).

Exemption 4 of the FOIA protects "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). This exemption is intended to protect the interests of both the Government and submitters of information. Exemption 4 affords protection to submitters who provide trade secrets, or commercial or financial information to the Government by safeguarding them from the competitive disadvantages that could result from

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disclosure. The exemption covers two broad categories of information in Federal agency records: 1) trade secrets, and 2) information that is (a) commercial or financial and (b) obtained from a person, and (c) privileged or confidential.

The information withheld under Exemption 4 includes confidential commercial information. The information withheld under Exemption 4 includes sensitive commercial or financial information that is maintained in confidence by the submitters and that which is "so customarily kept private, or at least, closely held by the person imparting it." *Food Marketing Institute v. Argus Leader Media*, 139 S.Ct. 2356, at 2363. The submitter companies hold the information private, and that is information not customarily released to the general public. DOE has also confirmed its commitment to keep this information confidential as it is customarily kept private by the submitter. Therefore, portions of the documents that include such information are being withheld under Exemption 4 of the FOIA.

Exemption 6 is generally referred to as the "personal privacy" exemption; it provides that the disclosure requirements of FOIA do not apply to "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." In applying Exemption 6, the DOE considered: 1) whether a significant privacy interest would be invaded; 2) whether the release of the information would further the public interest by shedding light on the operations or activities of the Government; and 3) whether in balancing the privacy interests against the public interest, disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.

The information withheld under Exemption 6 consists of mobile phone numbers and personal information belonging to an individual. This information qualifies as "similar files" because it is information in which individuals have a privacy interest. Moreover, releasing the information could subject the individuals to unwarranted or unsolicited communications. Since no public interest would be served by disclosing this information, and since there is a viable privacy interest that would be threatened by such disclosure, Exemption 6 authorizes withholding the information. Therefore, we have determined that the public interest in the information's release does not outweigh the overriding privacy interests in keeping it confidential, and this information is being withheld pursuant to Exemption 6.

This satisfies the standard set forth at 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A) that agencies shall withhold information under FOIA "only if (I) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption…; or (II) disclosure is prohibited by law…" 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A) also provides that whenever full disclosure of a record is not possible, agencies shall "consider whether partial disclosure of information is possible…and (II) take reasonable steps necessary to segregate and release nonexempt information." Therefore, we have determined that, in certain instances, a partial disclosure is proper.

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.7(c)(2), I am the individual responsible for the determination to withhold the information described above. The FOIA requires that "any reasonably segregable portion of a record shall be provided to any person requesting such record after deletion of the portions which are exempt." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). As a result, a redacted version of the documents is being released to you in accordance with 10 C.F.R. §1004.7(c)(3).

This decision, as well as the adequacy of the search, may be appealed within 90 calendar days from your receipt of this letter pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8. Appeals should be addressed to Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, HG-1, L'Enfant Plaza, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000

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Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-1615. The written appeal, including the envelope, must clearly indicate that a FOIA appeal is being made. You may also submit your appeal by e-mail to OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov, including the phrase "Freedom of Information Appeal" in the subject line (this is the preferred method by the Office of Hearings and Appeals). The appeal must contain all the elements required by 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8, including a copy of the determination letter. Thereafter, judicial review will be available to you in the Federal District Court either (1) in the district where you reside, (2) where you have your principal place of business, (3) where DOE's records are situated, or (4) in the District of Columbia.

You may contact DOE's FOIA Public Liaison, Alexander Morris, FOIA Officer, Office of Public Information, at FOIA-Central@hq.doe.gov, or by mail at MA-46/Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

The FOIA provides for the assessment of fees for the processing of requests. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(i); see also 10 C.F.R. § 1004.9(a). In our February 28, 2020, letter, you were informed that your request was placed in the "news media" category for fee purposes. Requesters in this category are charged fees for duplication only and are provided 100 pages at no cost. In that same letter, you were informed that your request for a fee waiver had been granted. DOE's processing costs did not exceed $15.00, the minimum amount at which DOE assesses fees. Therefore, no fees will be charged for processing your request.

This is the final response that you will receive from this office regarding your request. You may contact Mr. Cidney Hollis of my staff with any questions about this letter or the processing of your request at:

MA-46/Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585
FOIA-Central@hq.doe.gov

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you with this matter.

Sincerely,

Alexander C. Morris

Digitally signed by Alexander C. Morris
Date: 2024.08.08 14:28:54 -04'00'

Alexander C. Morris
FOIA Officer
Office of Public Information

Enclosures

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Request #: HQ-2020-00531-F

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DOE's Office of the Executive Secretariat (ES) has completed its search and has identified seven (7) documents responsive to your request.

- Four (4) documents *are being released in their entirety*.

- Three (3) documents *are being released, in part, pursuant to Exemption 4 and 6.*

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Ferencevych, Andrew (CONTR)

From: Diana Banister <dbanister@sbpublicaffairs.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 3:38 PM
To: Wetzel, Jonathan
Subject: RE: Follow-up

Oh great, thanks Jonathan! Appreciate you letting me know. Mr. Colgary had mentioned a couple of different options. Will stand by. Please let me know if you need anything.

(b) (4)

Best,

Diana L. Banister
Shirley & Banister Public Affairs
(703)739-5920 o
(b) (6) c
@dianasbpa

From: Wetzel, Jonathan <Jonathan.Wetzel@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 3:28 PM
To: Diana Banister <dbanister@sbpublicaffairs.com>
Subject: RE: Follow-up

Hi Diana,

Wanted to touch base with you.

(b) (6)

As we continue to work this out, I will be the best point of contact and if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to ask.

Thanks,

From: Diana Banister [mailto:dbanister@sbpublicaffairs.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 8:47 AM
To: Colgary, James <James.Colgary@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Follow-up

Mr. Colgary,

I hope you all are getting back to normal after the shutdown. Just wanted to follow-up with you about our conversation a few months ago and inquire if there is interest in continuing the conversation.

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Thank you.

Best,

Diana L. Banister
Shirley & Banister Public Affairs
(703)739-5920 o
(b) (6) c
@dianasbpa

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Ferencevych, Andrew (CONTR)

From: Wetzel, Jonathan
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 4:47 PM
To: Diana Banister
Subject: RE: Checking in

Hello Diana,

As of right now, I have no updates but will be in touch when I do.

Thanks,

From: Diana Banister [mailto:dbanister@sbpublicaffairs.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 12:16 PM
To: Wetzel, Jonathan <Jonathan.Wetzel@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Checking in

Hey Jonathan – hope you are doing well. Have seen the Secretary popping up in the news lately and thought I'd check in.

Best,

Diana L. Banister
Shirley & Banister Public Affairs
(703)739-5920 (o)
(b) (6) (c)
@dianasbpa

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Ferencevych, Andrew (CONTR)

From: Howell, Mike <Mike.Howell@heritage.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 2:06 PM
To: Wetzel, Jonathan
Cc: Watson, Michael A
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Heritage Meeting Request

Afternoon Jonathan-

Mike Howell from the Heritage Foundation here. I'm reaching out in hopes to set up a meeting with you and whomever you deem appropriate. We would like the opportunity to bring in several Heritage folks to include our energy policy team, leadership development team (placement, training, etc.), and policy promotion/conservative coalition folks.

We'd be more than happy to host you here or come over there, whichever is easier. Primarily want to make sure we understand what your needs/goals are, talk about areas in which we can help, and make sure everyone has good contacts moving forward.

Appreciate your consideration and looking forward to something working out. Please feel free to give me a call at (b) (6) if you'd like to discuss further.

-Mike

Mike Howell
Senior Advisor, Executive Branch Relations
The Heritage Foundation
214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-608-1545
heritage.org

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Ferencevych, Andrew (CONTR)

From: Uddo, Joe
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2019 3:05 PM
To: McMahon, Sean
Subject: RE: Luncheon Invitation with former Reagan Attorney General Edwin Meese

Sean,
How do I access the Heritage pool of resumes?

Joe

Joseph F. Uddo III
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Innovation and Market Development
United States Department of Energy
O: +1.202.586.3694

From: McMahon, Sean [mailto:Sean.McMahon@heritage.org]
Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 3:24 PM
To: Uddo, Joe <Joe.Uddo@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Luncheon Invitation with former Reagan Attorney General Edwin Meese

Dear Joe,

I wanted to personally reach out and invite you to a luncheon with your fellow White House Liaisons featuring former Reagan Attorney General Edwin Meese.

The lunch will provide an off-the-record opportunity to hear General Meese share his experience working to staff the Reagan Administration.

This private lunch is being held at The Heritage Foundation on Friday August 18th at 12:30 pm.

If you are able to join us, please RSVP to me at sean.mcmahon@heritage.org or (202) 608-6205.

Sean McMahon

Sean McMahon
Manager, Executive Branch Outreach and Candidate Briefing Program
The Heritage Foundation
214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-608-6205
heritage.org

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Ferencevych, Andrew (CONTR)

From: The Heritage Foundation <heritage@heritage.org>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 1:19 PM
To: Wetzel, Jonathan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Senate's Coronavirus Bill and Responding to COVID-19

The Senate's Coronavirus Bill and Responding to COVID-19 Resources

March 20, 2020

Congress and the Administration continue to take action to fight the coronavirus as American society grinds to a stand still. The Federal Government must work to ***keep employees tied to their employers*** *and providing temporary and targeted relief.*

Congress Should:

1. Congress's response to the economic consequences of the coronavirus should be targeted, temporary, and directed at public health efforts while limiting political abuse
2. While the CARES Act includes positive reforms, providing $200 billion in bailouts to select industries fails to meet these targeted and temporary objectives.
3. The Senate must significantly reform these special benefits to limit abuse, reduce the need for bailouts, and get aid directly to affected workers.

The Senate's Coronavirus Bill: Bailouts, Missed Opportunities, and Positive Reforms *New Report!*

By Lindsey Burke, PhD, David R. Burton, Marie Fishpaw, Rachel Greszler, Adam Michel, Norbert J. Michel, PhD, Parker Sheppard, PhD, and Paul Winfree

Any action that Congress takes should be targeted, temporary, and linked directly to the coronavirus epidemic in order to address the source of the economic shock while limiting any political abuse that can develop in a moment of crisis. Unfortunately, the Senate's coronavirus bill, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act misses this mark by including special benefits to specific industries that will exceed $200 billion. We have specified a number of proposals in other papers that would do more to help workers continue to receive paychecks while mitigating the economic effects associated with the coronavirus pandemic. Congress must resist the urge to provide special benefits to

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select industries and give the robust fiscal and monetary policy response that has already been enacted time to work.

New State Department Warning Shows Travel Restrictions Key to Curbing Coronavirus
By: Lora Reis, Senior Research Fellow and Peter Brookes, Senior Research Fellow

As the State Department warns Americans not to travel internationally and advises all Americans abroad to return home or prepare to shelter in place, the U.S. continues to expand travel restrictions as a key component in the fight against the coronavirus. That advisory Thursday afternoon from the State Department comes a day after the joint announcement by the United States and Canada that our common border is closed temporarily. Flattening the coronavirus infection curve, or reducing the numbers, through social distancing, good public hygiene, and well-considered travel restrictions provides real potential benefits.

In Combating Coronavirus, Trump and Governors Act Constitutionally
By: John Malcom, Vice President, Institute for Constitutional Government

Fox News contributor Andrew Napolitano, a former judge, recently penned an article with the provocative title "Coronavirus fear lets government assault our freedom in violation of Constitution." Although Napolitano is right to be concerned, President Donald Trump and other federal, state, and local officials appear to be acting within the bounds of the Constitution in responding to the severe threat posed by spread of the new coronavirus disease, which health officials call COVID-19. Napolitano first quotes from the Supreme Court's 1866 opinion in Ex parte Milligan ("The Constitution of the United States is a law for rulers and people, equally in war and in peace, and covers with the shield of its protection all classes of men, at all times and under all circumstances.").

Curricula Resource Initiative *New Resource!*
By: The Center for Education Policy

These resources include school models, curricula, essays, research, and products that emphasize moral education, civics, character development, and classical content, reflecting the importance of these foundational areas to student development.

China's Anti-U.S. Coronavirus Propaganda Ridiculous—So What's Behind Beijing's Lies?
By: James Carafano, Vice President, Davis Institute

For quite some time, China has been trying to undercut the foundation of American global power. Unlike Moscow's often coarse, brutish efforts, Beijing has been stealthier than an F-35, using public diplomacy initiatives to subtly buy its way into schools, civil society and the private sector. Now, however, the mask—and the gloves—are coming off. In the last few days, the Chinese Communist Party has changed its propaganda tactics. Party officials, government representatives and state media are now overtly attacking the U.S., spreading deliberate lies about the COVID-19 outbreak.

Calculating the Coronavirus Mortality Rate? It's Complicated
By: Thomas Spoehr, Director Center for National Defense

We all like our facts simple. One of the data points that many want to know is the mortality rate for the COVID-19 illness so they can make informed risk decisions. Unfortunately, like so many other things in life, it's complicated. Even though it seems like the novel coronavirus that causes the disease health officials call COVID-19 has now been around for a while, it has only just arrived on the scene. Thus, scientists are only now starting to gain some early insights.

Costly New Sick Leave Mandate Would Hurt Businesses
By: Rachel Greszler, Research Fellow in Economics, Budget and Entitlements

Government mandates often have unintended consequences. Take mandating paid sick leave in response to the coronavirus. Even if it's temporary, it could further damage businesses harmed by the virus—and hurt the very workers it's meant to help. The vast majority—86% of full-time workers—

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already have access to paid sick leave. The rest primarily work for small employers or are part-time or hourly workers. Unfortunately, it's small employers and workers who don't yet have sick leave who could be most hurt by a federal mandate, and who wouldn't be helped by federally funded sick leave.

What the Defense Production Act Is and How Can It Can Help the Government Fight COVID-19
By: Charles "Cully" Stimson, Senior Legal Fellow

We have been critical of such overuse of the Defense Production Act. But under the current circumstances, we think the administration and Congress need to use all lawful tools, including federal statutes as properly understood, to defeat the coronavirus and help America get back on her feet.

"Panic in the Streets": Life Imitates Art With Coronavirus
By: Hans Von Spokovsky,Election Law Reform Initiative and Senior Legal Fellow

In 1950, the great Hollywood director Elia Kazan produced a movie, "Panic in the Streets," about a desperate attempt to stop a pandemic (pneumonic plague, the pulmonary version of the bubonic plague, or "Black Death") from spreading out of New Orleans and across the United States. What's most interesting about that film is contrasting how the government deals with the problem in the movie versus how the government is dealing with the reality we face today.

Trump's Coronavirus National Emergency Declaration Helps Mobilize Nation
By: Kay Coles James, President of The Heritage Foundation

In many parts of our country, schools are shutting down for weeks. Businesses are sending their employees home to telework when possible. Churches and synagogues are closing their doors. Professional sports events have been canceled. More than 30 governors have declared states of emergency.

There are some who view this response to the coronavirus as an overreaction. After all, millions of Americans get the seasonal flu every year and we don't take these measures. But this isn't an overreaction. On the contrary, this is a commonsense, measured response to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus.

The Golden Age of Telehealth Is Here (Thanks to the Coronavirus)
By: Marie Fishpaw, Director, Domestic Policy Studies

The coronavirus pandemic has renewed interest in telehealth—the practice of letting patients consult with doctors directly, via phone or video-conferencing. This method of health care delivery offers obvious advantages, allowing patients to get personal medical advice quickly, without having to come to the doctor's office first. President Trump reiterated his commitment to clearing away barriers inhibiting the use of telehealth. And lawmakers have already moved to clear some away. But they can and should do more.

"Flattening the Curve" Critical to Fighting Coronavirus
By: Peter Brookes, Senior Research Fellow

Come commentators have ominously suggested that the United States is just a few days—maybe a week to 10 days—behind the crippling coronavirus crisis that is hammering Europe, especially Italy. If true, that's troubling. That said, however, taking personal responsibility for doing the right thing with public hygiene and the new (to most of us) concept of social distancing to flatten the possible infection curve could mean the difference between success and failure in fighting the virus here in this country.

Coronavirus Testing Delays Show Why Federal Health Care Rules Need Thorough Review
By: Robert Moffit, Senior Research Fellow at The Heritage Foundation

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The coronavirus pandemic demonstrates with crystal clarity how the federal government's vast regulatory apparatus governing health care can be an obstacle to rapid response in a national emergency. We've seen this movie before.

The law of unintended consequences is an ironclad rule of public policy, and in health policy, that law can go berserk. The normal concerns that preoccupy economists and political scientists, wrestling with the day-to-day concerns about health care costs and access in government programs and insurance markets, pale in comparison with urgent matters of public health and safety.



214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE | Washington, DC 20002 | (202) 546-4400

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Ferencevych, Andrew (CONTR)

From: The Heritage Foundation <heritage@heritage.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 11:28 AM
To: Wetzel, Jonathan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] National Coronavirus Recovery Commission Launches to 'Save Lives and Livelihoods'



PRESS RELEASE:

National Coronavirus Recovery Commission Launches to 'Save Lives and Livelihoods'

April 6, 2020

WASHINGTON—The Heritage Foundation announced today the formation of the National Coronavirus Recovery Commission, which will examine the extraordinary public health crisis facing America and the steps needed to move prudently toward recovery.

The commission will be led by Heritage Foundation President Kay C. James and includes top experts and thinkers from government, public health, disaster response and relief, academia and education, business, and the faith community. The list of commissioners is below and available at CoronavirusCommission.com.

The experts on the commission will bring their specialized experience and expertise to chart out the path to best navigate our nation through this crisis to determine when and how to begin to get Americans' lives "back to normal" again. The commission's work will consider two primary categories—crisis mitigation as well as recovery and restoration—and answer important questions that will serve as a roadmap to America's post-pandemic future.

"Good public health policy is good economic policy," said Heritage President Kay C. James. "Saving lives and saving livelihoods are part of the same road to recovery that we need to pursue today. A physically healthy America is an economically strong America, so we need to think of them in concert rather than as competing priorities."

Throughout her career, James has served on numerous boards and commissions. She also brings experience leading crisis management teams through trying times while serving as Virginia's secretary of Health and Human Resources and as the director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

The National Coronavirus Recovery Commission will carefully examine decisions that policymakers are will make that significantly impact the scope of this crisis and the duration of social restrictions, economic hardship, recovery, and the potential permanent effects.

Two leading scholars and policy experts, Paul Winfree and Charmaine Yoest, will serve as the commission's executive directors.

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Winfree directs Heritage's Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies. He previously worked in the White House and Congress. His research focuses on public finance, health economics, economic history, and microeconomic modeling. Winfree is also chairman of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. He has a master of science in economics and economic history from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a bachelor of science in economics from George Mason University.

Yoest is vice president of Heritage's Institute for Family, Community and Opportunity. Prior to joining Heritage, she directed intergovernmental, public affairs, and public liaison programs at Office of National Drug Control Policy, and also served as assistant secretary for public affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Wheaton College, Yoest earned a masters and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.

The commission's initial meeting is scheduled for April 9 with additional videoconferences through the month of April. At the conclusion of the commission's meetings, the reports from each discussion will be compiled into a final report for the American people and their policymakers.

"Americans are confronting one of the greatest challenges of their lifetime and they are seeking answers for how we navigate through this crisis and toward recovery," said Rob Bluey, spokesman for the commission. "This commission will gather ideas from experts and the general public for consideration. We welcome contributions from the American people to make sure all ideas are considered and the best recommendations are ultimately made to our leaders."

The commission will provide continual updates on the crisis response and recovery and publish its recommendations on its website. For more information, follow twitter.com/covid19recovery and facebook.com/coronavirus-commission.

For media inquiries, contact Gloria Taylor at press@coronaviruscommission.com.

Commissioners

Kay C. James, Chairman
President, The Heritage Foundation

George Allen
Former U.S. Senator and Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia

John A. Allison IV
Director, Moelis & Co.; Former CEO, BB Former President, Cato Institute

Lawrence J. Blanford
Former President & CEO, Green Mountain Roasters

Kevin P. Chavous
President of Academics, Policy, and Schools, K12 Inc.; Former D.C. Councilman

Edwin J. Feulner
Founder, The Heritage Foundation

Timothy E. Flanigan
Chief Legal Officer, Cancer Treatment Centers of America

Dr. Bill Frist
Former U.S. Senate Majority Leader; Founder, Hope Through Healing Hands

Noe Landini
Managing Director, Junction Bakery & Bistro

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Rev. Samuel Rodriguez
President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference

Nelson J. Sabatini
Chairman, Health Services Cost Review Commission, State of Maryland

Joni Eareckson Tada
Founder and CEO, Joni and Friends

Frances M. Townsend
Executive Vice President, MacAndrews and Forbes Holdings, LLC; Former White House Homeland Security Adviser

Dr. Richard J. Tubb
Retired Brigadier General; White House Physician Emeritus

J.C. Watts
Former Member of U.S. House of Representatives; Founder & Chairman, J.C. Watts Companies

Gail Wilensky
Economist and Senior Fellow, Project HOPE

Robert L. Woodson Jr.
Founder and President, The Woodson Center

For more on the Coronavirus by The Heritage Foundation:

Congress Should Focus on Pandemic Control and Fix the CARES Act for an Economic Rebound
Report by Romina Boccia, Lindsey Burke, Ph.D., David Burton, Rachel Greszler, Adam Michel, Norbert Michel, Jude Schwalbach, Parker Sheppard and Paul Winfree

A stimulus package designed to increase spending will have limited effect in the face of sweeping mitigation measures that have shut down most economic activity deemed nonessential. Nor will stimulus spending on unrelated projects reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus, which is the primary cause of economic contraction. Lawmakers must stay focused on containing the pandemic through targeted, timely, and temporary measures that keep workers attached to their employers and avert widespread business failures. These policies will enable the economy to rebound once the pandemic response allows for it. Congress should fix problems introduced in the hastily drafted CARES Act, not introduce poorly targeted stimulus measures that will confuse public communication, undermine pandemic mitigation, and distort an eventual economic rebound.

Why Economic Freedom Is Critical to Beating the Coronavirus Pandemic
Commentary by Kay Coles James, President of The Heritage Foundation

The debate in the United States over whether to move away from free markets and toward socialism may change dramatically as the latest coronavirus spreads throughout the world. That's because in the fight against the global pandemic, we'll likely witness one of the most compelling arguments in our lifetimes emerge in favor of free-market systems—and lives will be saved in the process.

Energy Bailouts and Handouts Don't Belong in Coronavirus Packages
Commentary by Nick Loris, Deputy Director, Thomas A. Roe Institute

Social distancing policies at the state and level have forced businesses to close temporarily, which has led millions of Americans to worry about their financial situation. Policymakers must offer focused, temporary solutions that specifically help people who are unable to work or whose businesses have been adversely affected by the closures. In true Washington fashion, though, Congress is pushing for policies unrelated to the economic and health concerns caused by the epidemic. The latest is that House leaders want to include climate regulations on the airline industry and expand subsidies for the wind and solar industries

Coronavirus Is No Reason for the Feds to Take Over the Election Process
Commentary by Hans von Spakovsky, Senior Legal Fellow, Edwin Meese Institute for Legal and Judicial Studies

The "Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act of 2020" is aptly named because it could bring an electoral disaster in November. Since Democrats took over the House in 2018, they have been pushing bills to increase federal control of our elections. Now, amid the coronavirus crisis, they seem to think the time is ripe to take another stab at it.

A Public Health Crisis Is No Time for Private Pension Bailouts
Commentary by Rachel Greszler, Research Fellow in Economics, Grover M. Hermann Center

Now is the time to address the COVID-19 crisis, not throw money at decades-long problems. House Democrats' inclusion of a massive taxpayer bailout for a select group of multiemployer, or union pension plans in their most recent 1400-page pork-filled COVID-19 legislative package flies in the face of 60% of U.S. households that have suffered significant retirement account losses of their own with the stock market's roughly 25% COVID-19 tumble. A private pension bailout as a "solution" for the current situation is both ironic and disturbing.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting with one of our experts, please contact Scott Zipperle

The Heritage Foundation

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Ferencevych, Andrew (CONTR)

From: Kay Coles James <kay.james@heritage.org>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 5:37 PM
To: Wetzel, Jonathan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] National Coronavirus Recovery Commission Releases First Set of Recommendations to Reopen America



Dear Jonathan,

The coronavirus pandemic is one of the greatest challenges our nation will face in our lifetime. Earlier this month, The Heritage Foundation launched the National Coronavirus Recovery Commission comprised of experts in health care, business, government, economics, disaster relief, human behavior, and more. The commission is creating recommendations to address when and how Americans can begin to get "back to normal." Its goal is to save both lives and livelihoods.

I am pleased to announce that we are making great progress in delivering specific, actionable policy recommendations that will help federal, state, and local governments, businesses, and our civil society navigate through this crisis and toward recovery. Today, we are rolling out the first two phases of a five-phase plan to reopen America. These first two phases address how to:

- return to a more normal level of business activity at the regional level
- slow the spread of the virus while expanding testing, reporting, and contact tracing

You can find these recommendations here and view today's press release here.

President Trump is leading our nation with his plan to "Open America Again." At the same time, the National Coronavirus Recovery Commission is putting forth a rigorously devised agenda that will aid the administration in crafting a winning strategy against this invisible war and ensure the safety of the American people while getting them back to work. These recommendations are vetted by the commissioners and are the most specific, actionable policy steps yet to be put forth.

We understand that policy shapers like you are faced with some of the most consequential decisions they will likely ever have to make. The National Coronavirus Recovery Commission is eager to stand with you as we work to find our way out of this public health and economic crisis.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Kay C. James
President
The Heritage Foundation



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