United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

July 9, 2026

Via Electronic Mail: foia@americanoversight.org

Chioma Chukwu
1030 15th Street NW, Suite b255
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request No. DOI-2026-006927

Dear Chioma Chukwu:

The Office of the Secretary (OS) FOIA Office received your FOIA request, on June 11, 2026 and assigned it control number DOI-2026-006927. Please cite this number in any future communications with our office regarding your request.

Description of the Requested Records

You requested:

"Records sufficient to identify all donations solicited by and/or received on behalf of your agency for the 250th celebration of the United States' independence, including all such records that involve America250 (also known as America 250) and Freedom 250. American Oversight requests that your agency provide all donors, amounts given, and the dates of the donations.

To the extent that your agency maintains aggregated information, such as spreadsheets or database records that can be readily exported to spreadsheets, such documents would be responsive to this request. American Oversight believes your office is in the best position to identify where responsive records are likely to reside, but believes a reasonable search should include, at a minimum, the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the Deputy Secretary, the Office of the Chief of Staff, the Office of the Communications Director, the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, the Office of the Press Secretary, the Office of the Digital Director, the Office of the Solicitor, the Office of the Deputy Solicitor, the Departmental Ethics Office, the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Grants and Acquisition, the Office of Budget, the Office of Financial Management, and the Office of Acquisition and Property Management.

Please provide all responsive records from January 20, 2025, through the date the search is conducted."

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Fee Category

We classified you as an "other-use" requester. As such, we may charge you for some of our search and duplication costs, but we will not charge you for our review costs; you are also entitled to up to 2 hours of search time and 100 pages of photocopies (or an equivalent volume) for free. *See* 43 C.F.R. § 2.39. If, after taking into consideration your fee category entitlements, our processing costs are less than $50.00, we will not bill you because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected. *See* 43 C.F.R. § 2.37(g).

Processing Schedule

We use Multitrack Processing to process FOIA requests. Your request falls into the "Simple" processing track for requests that would generally take one to five workdays to process. Within each track, requests are usually processed on a first-in, first-out basis.

No Records

We are writing to respond to your request. After a thorough search of our files, it has been determined that the OS has no records responsive to your request.

Deb Jayaram, Government Information Specialist, is responsible for this denial.

Fees—No Charge

We do not bill requesters for FOIA processing fees when their fees are less than $50.00, because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected. *See 43 C.F.R. § 2.37(g)*. Therefore, there is no billable fee for the processing of this request.

Appeal Rights

You may appeal this response to the Department's FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you choose to appeal, the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer must receive your FOIA appeal **no later than 90 workdays** from the date of this final response. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday.

Your appeal must be made in writing. You may submit your appeal and accompanying materials to the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer by mail, courier service, fax, or email. All communications concerning your appeal should be clearly marked with the words: "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." You must include an explanation of why you believe this response is in error. You must also include with your appeal copies of all correspondence between you and OS concerning your FOIA request, including your original FOIA request and this response. Failure to include with your appeal all correspondence between you and OS will result in the Department's rejection of your appeal, unless the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer determines (in the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer's sole discretion) that good cause exists to accept the defective appeal.

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Please include your name and daytime telephone number (or the name and telephone number of an appropriate contact), email address and fax number (if available) in case the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer needs additional information or clarification of your appeal.

DOI FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office Contact Information

Department of the Interior
Office of the Solicitor
1849 C Street, N.W.
MS-6556 MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office

Telephone: (202) 208-5339
Fax: (202) 208-6677
Email: FOIA.Appeals@sol.doi.gov

Mediation Services

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Email: ogis@nara.gov
Web: https://www.archives.gov/ogis
Telephone: (202) 741-5770
Toll-free: (877) 684-6448

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer.

Contact information for the Department's FOIA Public Liaison, who you may also seek dispute resolution services from, is available at *https://www.doi.gov/foia/foiacenters*.

Conclusion

If you have any questions about this letter, you may contact me by email at os_foia@ios.doi.gov, or by mail at U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, MS-7328, Washington, D.C.

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20240. Additionally, contact information for the Department's FOIA Requester Centers and FOIA Public Liaison is available at *https://www.doi.gov/foia/foiacenters*.

Sincerely,

DEBOSREE JAYARAM Digitally signed by DEBOSREE JAYARAM Date: 2026.07.09 15:21:16 -04'00'

Deb Jayaram
Government Information Specialist
Office of the Secretary
FOIA Office

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