AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

June 10, 2026

VIA ONLINE PORTAL

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Alexis Graves, OIA Director
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Rm. 4039-A
Washington, DC 20250
USDAFOIA@usda.gov
Via Online Portal

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the implementing regulations of your agency, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

In April 2026, advocates from the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) coalition met with representatives from the White House and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to discuss the Administration's efforts to shore up the domestic supply of glyphosate and other issues related to pesticides.[1] American Oversight seeks records that may shed light on this matter.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your agency produce the following records within twenty business days:

> All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between any of the agency officials listed below, and any of the external individuals listed below.
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> USDA Officials:
> a. Brooke L. Rollins, Secretary

[1] *See, e.g.*, Cheyenne Haslett, Sophia Cai, and Dasha Burns, *Erika Kirk, Turning Point USA CEO, helped arrange White House talks amid MAHA backlash*, Politico, Apr. 24, 2026, https://www.politico.com/news/2026/04/24/erika-kirk-helped-bring-maha-trumps-white-house-after-pesticide-dustup-00889635; Will Stone, *The MAHA Movement is Mad About the Weedkiller Glyphosate and Trump's EPA*, NPR, Apr. 28, 2026, https://www.npr.org/2026/04/28/nx-s1-5801645/maha-epa-pesticide-glyphosate-trump.

b. Ricki Schroeder, Chief of Staff for Research, Education, and Economics
c. Tate Bennett, Chief of Staff
d. Audra Weeks, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy
e. Stephen Vaden, Deputy Secretary
f. Jennifer Tiller, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary
g. Ben Carson, National Nutrition Advisor
h. Dominic Restuccia, White House Liaison
i. Kayleigh Hurley, White House Liaison
j. Julie Van Alstine, Acting Director, OPMP, OCE
k. Jennifer Rowland, Agricultural Biotechnology Advisor, OPMP, OCE
l. Steve Messeh, Acting Director, Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement
m. Anna Pilato, Chief of Staff, Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement
n. Jason Allen, Senior Advisor, Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement
o. Alec Varsamis, Director of Communications
p. Richard Fordyce, Under Secretary for Farm Production & Conservation
q. Brooke Appleton, Deputy Under Secretary, FPAC
r. Andrew Fisher, Chief of Staff, FPAC
s. Todd Lindsey, Acting Under Secretary for Rural Development
t. Neal Robbins, Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development
u. Joe Gilson, Chief of Staff, Rural Development

External Individuals:[2]

i. Alex Clark, Culture Apothecary Podcast
ii. Kelly Ryerson, Glyphosate Facts
iii. Erika Kirk, Turning Point USA
iv. Tony Lyons, Co-Founder, MAHA Action
v. Casey Means, former nominee for Surgeon General
vi. Courtney Swan, Realfoodology
vii. Vani Hari, Food Babe
viii. Zen Honeycutt, Moms Across America
ix. Liana Werner-Gray, author
x. Del Bigtree, Informed Consent Action Network
xi. Mary Holland, Children's Health Defense
xii. Stephanie Locricchio, Children's Health Defense
xiii. Leslie Manookian, Health Freedom Defense Fund
xiv. Mark Hyman, physician and author
xv. Gary Brecka, Co-Chair, MAHA Action
xvi. Michael Boes, Chief MAHA Officer
xvii. Lexi Vrachalus, influencer
xviii. Katie Miller, The Katie Miller Podcast
xix. Paul Saladino, physician and influencer
xx. Gretchen Adler, influencer
xxi. Bethany Joy McDaniel, Primally Pure
xxii. Alexandra Muñoz, independent scientist and toxicologist
xxiii. Amanda Rocchio, MeowMeix

[2] American Oversight requests that, at a minimum, your office use the name of the external individual as a search term.

xxiv. Jason Karp, HumanCo
xxv. David Murphy, United We Eat
xxvi. Brett Hartl, Center for Biological Diversity
xxvii. JW Glass, Center for Biological Diversity
xxviii. Max Sano, Beyond Pesticides
xxix. Mark Doudlah, Doudlah Farms Organics
xxx. Hilda Labrada Gore, Holistic Hilda
xxxi. Angela Huffman, Farm Action
xxxii. Sarah Starman, Friends of the Earth
xxxiii. Max Goldberg, Organic Insider
xxxiv. Bill Freese, Center for Food Safety
xxxv. Ana-Maria Temple, holistic pediatrician
xxxvi. Leah Wilson, Stand for Health Freedom
xxxvii. Kristina Baehr, Just Well Law
xxxviii. Brent Wisner, Wisner Baum

Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and this request specifically excludes, the initial mailing of news clips or other mass-distribution emails. However, subsequent communications responding to or forwarding such emails are responsive to this request. In other words, for example, if an agency official received a mass-distribution news clip email from one of the individuals listed above, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if the agency official forwarded that email with commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

Please provide all responsive records from February 1, 2026, through April 30, 2026.

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's regulations, 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. Moreover, the request is for non-commercial purposes.

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 operations or activities of the government."[3] The public has a significant interest in the regulation and use of pesticides and other chemicals that may negatively affect human health and the environment.[4] Records with the potential to

[3] 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).
[4] *See, e.g.*, Grace Yarrow and Meredith Lee Hill, *The MAHA Revolt Threatening the Farm Bill*, Politico, Apr. 26, 2026, https://www.politico.com/news/2026/04/26/the-maha-revolt-threatening-the-farm-bill-00891746; Hiroko Tabuchi and Sheryl Gay Stolberg, *Trump Order Aims to Boost Weedkiller Targeted in Health Lawsuits*, The New York Times,

shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the federal government, including how federal agencies solicit and incorporate feedback from external individuals and entities into environmental and health policies and programs.[5] American Oversight is committed to transparency and makes the responses agencies provide to FOIA requests publicly available, and the public's understanding of the government's activities would be enhanced through American Oversight's analysis and publication of these records.

This request "is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester."[6] In fact, 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 commercial 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 its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and X (formerly Twitter).[7]

Feb. 18, 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/18/us/politics/trump-boost-weedkiller.html; Marcia Brown and Cheyenne Haslett, *How Biotech Giant Bayer Landed a Win that Made MAHA Furious*, Politico, Mar. 20, 2026, https://www.politico.com/news/2026/03/20/how-biotech-giant-bayer-landed-a-win-that-made-maha-furious-00838045.

[5] *See, e.g.*, Cheyenne Haslett, *The White House Makes Amends with MAHA*, Politico, Apr. 9, 2026, https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2026/04/the-white-house-makes-amends-with-maha-00866476; Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Hiroko Tabuchi, *MAHA Moms Turn Against Trump: 'Women Feel Like They Were Lied To'*, The New York Times, Feb. 19, 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/19/us/politics/maha-moms-glyphosate-roundup-robert-kennedy.html; Kelly Hooper and Sophie Gardner, *White House Extends Olive Branch to MAHA*, Politico, Apr. 10, 2026, https://www.politico.com/newsletters/politico-pulse/2026/04/10/white-house-extends-olive-branch-to-maha-00866013.

[6] *See, e.g.*, Pamela King and Ellie Borst, *Unlikely Foes Clash at Supreme Court Over Roundup Cancer Risk*, E&E News, Apr. 23, 2026, https://www.eenews.net/articles/unlikely-foes-clash-at-supreme-court-over-roundup-cancer-risk/; Sheryl Gay Stolberg, *The 'Make America Healthy Again' Movement Is Cooling on Trump and Republicans*, N.Y. Times, Apr. 23, 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/04/23/us/politics/maha-voters-midterms.html; Tina Reed, *MAHA Scores on Farm Bill but Loses Ally for Surgeon General*, Axios, Apr. 30, 2026, https://www.axios.com/2026/04/30/maha-pesticide-surgeon-general-congress; 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

[7] American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 94,300 followers on X (formerly Twitter). American Oversight, Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/ (last visited June 10, 2026); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), https://x.com/weareoversight (last visited June 10, 2026).

American Oversight has also demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website.[8] Examples reflecting this commitment include the posting of records related to the first Trump Administration's contacts with Ukraine and analyses of those contacts;[9] posting records and editorial content about the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic;[10] posting records received as part of American Oversight's "Audit the Wall" project to gather and analyze information related to the first Trump administration's proposed construction of a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, and analyses of what those records reveal;[11] the posting of records related to an ethics waiver received by a senior Department of Justice attorney and an analysis of what those records demonstrated regarding the Department's process for issuing such waivers;[12] and posting records and analysis of federal officials' use of taxpayer dollars to charter private aircraft or use government planes for unofficial business.[13]

Accordingly, American Oversight qualifies for a fee waiver.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

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[8] *See generally Our Latest*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/blog.
[9] *The Trump Administration's Contacts with Ukraine*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-contacts-with-ukraine.
[10] *See generally The Trump Administration's Response to Coronavirus*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-response-to-coronavirus; *see, e.g., CDC Calendars from 2018 and 2019: Pandemic-Related Briefings and Meetings*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/cdc-calendars-from-2018-and-2019-pandemic-related-briefings-and-meetings.
[11] *See generally Audit the Wall*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/audit-the-wall; *see, e.g., Audit the Wall: No Plans, No Funding, No Timeline, No Wall*, American Oversight, https://americanoversight.org/audit-the-wall-no-plans-funding-or-timeline-and-no-wall/.
[12] *DOJ Records Relating to Solicitor General Noel Francisco's Recusal*, American Oversight, https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/25544090-doj-records-relating-to-solicitor-general-noel-franciscos-recusal-american-oversight; *Francisco & the Travel Ban: What We Learned from the DOJ Documents*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/francisco-the-travel-ban-what-we-learned-from-the-doj-documents.
[13] *See generally Swamp Airlines: Chartered Jets at Taxpayer Expense*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/swamp-airlines-private-jets-taxpayer-expense; *see, e.g., New Information on Pompeo's 2017 Trips to His Home State*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/new-information-on-pompeos-2017-trips-to-his-home-state.

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. For instance, if the request seeks "communications," please search all locations likely to contain communications, including relevant hard-copy files, correspondence files, appropriate locations on hard drives and shared drives, emails, and shared messages systems such as Slack.

- In conducting your search, please understand the terms "record," "document," and "information" in their broadest sense, to include any written, typed, or printed material of any kind. We seek records of any kind, including electronic records, as well as letters, emails, facsimiles, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions.

- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.

- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Federal Records Act and FOIA.[14] 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, by intent or through negligence, failed to meet their obligations.[15]

- Please use all tools available to your agency to conduct a complete and efficient search for potentially responsive records. Agencies are subject to government-wide requirements to manage agency information electronically,[16] and many agencies have adopted the National Archives and Records Administration

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[14] *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).
[15] *See Competitive Enter. Inst. v. Office of Sci. & Tech. Policy*, No. 14-cv-765, slip op. at 8 (D.D.C. Dec. 12, 2016).
[16] 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.

(NARA) Capstone program, or similar policies. These systems provide options for searching emails and other electronic records in a manner that is reasonably likely to be more complete than just searching individual custodian files. For example, a custodian may have deleted a responsive email from his or her email program, but your agency's archiving tools may capture that email under Capstone. At the same time, custodian searches are still necessary; agencies may not have direct access to files stored in .PST files, outside of network drives, in paper format, or in personal email accounts.

- 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 a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.

- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

Conclusion

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight. 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 your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF 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 a rolling basis.

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Danny Martinez at foia@americanoversight.org or (202) 897-2465. 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,

/s/ Danny Martinez
Danny Martinez
on behalf of
American Oversight