

August 1, 2025

The Honorable Kelly Loeffler
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Loeffler,

Recent reporting suggests that my worst fears about the collection and nefarious repurposing of Americans' private, personal information by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) have been realized. Under your watch, unvetted DOGE employees with no background in data security protocols appear not only to have gained access to the Small Business Administration's (SBA) information systems but used that access to infiltrate the National Finance Center (NFC), which holds personally identifiable information (PII) collected from several federal agencies. Yet you have shown no concern about this undermining of security protocols established by decades-old laws. The American people deserve to know the extent to which unvetted DOGE staffers have accessed their sensitive business and personal information and to what end that information is now being used.

On July 30, 2025, *Wired* reported that DOGE operatives Edward Coristine—a 19-year-old also known by the online alias “Big Balls”—and Donald Park—described by *Wired* as “a Brazilian jiu-jitsu enthusiast and private equity investor”—were granted sweeping access to SBA's and NFC's sensitive information systems, including the personally identifiable information (PII) of small business owners and everyday Americans.¹ This breach of public trust at the SBA is especially disturbing given the unique sensitivity of the PII the agency collects from small business owners seeking to utilize its programs and services such as, according to *Wired*, “employer identification numbers (EINs), North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) numbers, and Social Security numbers.”²

In February, I wrote Acting Administrator Everett Woodel, Jr. requesting information on early reports that DOGE had gained access to SBA's information systems.³ The response was

¹ Victoria Elliott, *How Edward ‘Big Balls’ Coristine and DOGE Got Access to a Federal Payroll System That Serves the FBI*, *Wired* (June 30, 2025), <https://www.wired.com/story/edward-coristine-big-balls-doge-federal-pay-roll-system/>.

² *Id.*

³ Letter from Sen. Edward J. Markey, Ranking Member of the U.S. S. Comm. on Small Bus. and Entrepreneurship, to Everett Woodel, Jr., Acting Admin., U.S. Small Bus. Admin. (Feb. 5, 2025), <https://www.sbc.senate.gov/public/cache/files/3/c/3cb8a535-6d8f-4625-b4b5->

dismissive,⁴ and during your May 21, 2025, testimony before the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, you stated that you were “proud that we are working alongside the DOGE team, who are not partisan, but patriots and business leaders who care about the future.”⁵ Now we know that, over the course of the six months since I wrote to SBA, you have allowed DOGE to run rampant, stomping on the right to privacy and government accountability.

DOGE is stealing data and potentially spying on Americans. Federal auditors unequivocally characterized DOGE’s operations not as proper audits but as a “heist,” warning that “none of them have any auditing background, none have any certifications, none have any clearances.”⁶ The auditors raised alarms that DOGE may be attempting to exfiltrate and consolidate sensitive PII—including Social Security, tax, immigration, and labor records—to build a comprehensive “master” database on Americans.⁷ Consolidating information in this manner could potentially enable political targeting or interference with small businesses or demographic groups.⁸ It is unacceptable that individuals such as Coristine and Park—who lack any security clearances or qualifications—were allowed to access systems holding small businesses’ most sensitive, confidential data.

Let me be clear: DOGE is not a legitimate government agency. Under no circumstances should any DOGE staffers have access to small business owners’ PII. As SBA Administrator, you are accountable to Congress and to the American people. Concealing what DOGE did at SBA is dangerous, unpatriotic, and an abdication of your responsibility. I demand written answers to the following questions, and responsive documents, by August 8, 2025.

1. What did DOGE, including Edward Coristine and Donald Park, do with the sensitive information they stole from the SBA and the American people?
2. Has DOGE centralized the information stolen from SBA and other federal agencies? If so, where is this data stored? What is the intent behind centralizing Americans’ data?
3. What steps did SBA take to authenticate, vet, or supervise DOGE staffers? Were background checks or government credentials verified? If so, what level of clearance did Edward Coristine, Donald Park, and other DOGE staffers hold?
4. Did SBA’s general counsel review and offer an opinion on DOGE’s actions with respect to their legality under the Privacy Act, Federal Information Security Modernization Act, the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act, and other federal statutes that govern

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⁴ Letter from Everett M. Woodel Jr., Acting Admin., U.S. Small Bus. Admin., to Senator Edward J. Markey, Ranking Member, U.S. S. Comm. on Small Bus. and Entrepreneurship (Feb. 11, 2025) (on file with committee).

⁵ *Fueling America’s Manufacturing Comeback: Hearing Before the S. Comm. On Small Bus. And Entrepreneurship*, 119th Cong. (2025) (statement of the Hon. Kelly Loeffler, Admin., U.S. Small Bus. Admin.).

⁶ Victoria Elliott, *‘It’s a Heist’: Real Federal Auditors Are Horrified by DOGE*, Wired (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://www.wired.com/story/federal-auditors-doge-elon-musk/>.

⁷ Makena Kelly & Victoria Elliott, *DOGE Is Building a Master Database to Surveil and Track Immigrants*, Wired, (Apr. 18, 2025), <https://www.wired.com/story/doge-collecting-immigrant-data-surveil-track/>.

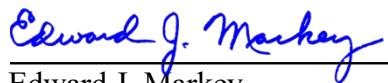
⁸ Melissa Angell, *House Dems Raise Alarm Over DOGE’s Access to SBA Systems, Fearing Musk Could Target Entrepreneurs*, Inc. (Feb. 5, 2025), https://www.inc.com/melissa-angell/house-dems-raise-alarm-over-doges-access-to-sba-systems-fearing-musk-could-target-entrepreneurs/91143402?utm_source=chatgpt.com; Jenna McLaughlin, *A whistleblower’s disclosure details how DOGE may have taken sensitive labor data*, NPR (Apr. 15, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/04/15/nx-s1-5355896/doge-nlr-b-elon-musk-spacex-security>.

payment systems, privacy protections, interagency data sharing, and federal audit standards?

5. What data privacy and protection trainings are SBA employees required to undergo? Did DOGE staffers at SBA undergo the same training?
6. Since DOGE accessed SBA's information systems, have there been attempted logins to them associated with foreign IP addresses? If so, from what countries? What is SBA doing to mitigate these potential breaches?

I look forward to receiving your answers so that the American people get the accountability and transparency they deserve on this troubling matter.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
Ranking Member, Committee
on Small Business and
Entrepreneurship