

February 12, 2021

Catherine Szpindor
Chief Administrative Officer of the House
of Representatives
632 Ford House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Alan Thompson
Acting Chief Information Officer of the
House of Representatives
632 Ford House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chief Administrative Officer Szpindor and Acting Chief Information Office Thompson,

On January 6, 2021, insurrectionists successfully infiltrated the Capitol complex and compromised the security and integrity of information technology systems across the United States Congress. U.S. Government property was defaced or stolen. While the perimeter was breached, U.S. Capitol Police had no control over who entered the complex and with what intentions. Thus, we have no real assurances that foreign assets were not among these insurrectionists with the intent on carrying out a “black bag operation” in the United States Capitol.

We understand the Chief Administrative Officer is taking this event with the utmost seriousness. However, we must assume the House network and the hardware used to access these systems may have been compromised by malware being installed on House computers. We must also assume that surveillance devices of any kind could have been planted throughout critical areas of the Capitol complex. These all put our national security at risk.

Given these alarming concerns, we ask for the following:

1. Is CAO, alone or in partnership with any Federal government agency, planning a sweep of the U.S. Capitol Complex for electronic surveillance devices?
2. What steps is CAO taking to recover any hardware that was removed from the Capitol complex during the insurrection?
3. Has any evidence been found to suggest that Congressional IT systems had been compromised after the January 6, 2021 insurrection?
4. What steps will CAO be taking to secure our technological infrastructure going forward?
5. Will CAO commit to holding a member-level briefing outlining steps being taken to ensure the House network is secure following any infiltrations?

We must ensure that no House equipment was compromised during the insurrection and that our House network remains secure from any foreign interference or surveillance. We also understand the sensitive nature of this request, and we accept if we must be briefed in a SCIF to understand the scope of our response. Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress

TED W. LIEU
Member of Congress

JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress

JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress

DINA TITUS
Member of Congress

KATHY CASTOR
Member of Congress

DONALD S. BEYER, JR.
Member of Congress

SALUD CARBAJAL
Member of Congress

ANDRÉ CARSON
Member of Congress

JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA
Member of Congress

JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress



BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress

BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress

MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS
Member of Congress

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress

BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress

GRACE MENG
Member of Congress

ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress

LIZZIE FLETCHER
Member of Congress

SUZAN K. DELBENE
Member of Congress